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ЕЖЕМЕСЯЧНЫЙ НАУЧНЫЙ ЖУРНАЛ

Медицинские новости Грузии
საქართველოს სამედიცინო სიახლენი

GEORGIAN MEDICAL NEWS

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GMN: Georgian Medical News is peer-reviewed, published monthly journal committed to promoting the science and art of medicine and the betterment of public health, published by the GMN Editorial Board since 1994. GMN carries original scientific articles on medicine, biology and pharmacy, which are of experimental, theoretical and practical character; publishes original research, reviews, commentaries, editorials, essays, medical news, and correspondence in English and Russian.

GMN is indexed in MEDLINE, SCOPUS, PubMed and VINITI Russian Academy of Sciences. The full text content is available through EBSCO databases.

GMN: Медицинские новости Грузии - ежемесячный рецензируемый научный журнал, издаётся Редакционной коллегией с 1994 года на русском и английском языках в целях поддержки медицинской науки и улучшения здравоохранения. В журнале публикуются оригинальные научные статьи в области медицины, биологии и фармации, статьи обзорного характера, научные сообщения, новости медицины и здравоохранения. Журнал индексируется в MEDLINE, отражён в базе данных SCOPUS, PubMed и ВИНТИ РАН. Полнотекстовые статьи журнала доступны через БД EBSCO.

GMN: Georgian Medical News – საქართველოს სამედიცინო სიახლენი – არის ყოველთვიური სამეცნიერო სამედიცინო რეცენზირებადი ჟურნალი, გამოიცემა 1994 წლიდან, წარმოადგენს სარედაქციო კოლეგიისა და აშშ-ის მეცნიერების, განათლების, ინდუსტრიის, ხელოვნებისა და ბუნებისმეტყველების საერთაშორისო აკადემიის ერთობლივ გამოცემას. GMN-ში რუსულ და ინგლისურ ენებზე ქვეყნდება ექსპერიმენტული, თეორიული და პრაქტიკული ხასიათის ორიგინალური სამეცნიერო სტატიები მედიცინის, ბიოლოგიისა და ფარმაციის სფეროში, მიმოხილვითი ხასიათის სტატიები.

ჟურნალი ინდექსირებულია MEDLINE-ის საერთაშორისო სისტემაში, ასახულია SCOPUS-ის, PubMed-ის და ВИНТИ РАН-ის მონაცემთა ბაზებში. სტატიების სრული ტექსტი ხელმისაწვდომია EBSCO-ს მონაცემთა ბაზებიდან.

WEBSITE

www.geomednews.com

К СВЕДЕНИЮ АВТОРОВ!

При направлении статьи в редакцию необходимо соблюдать следующие правила:

1. Статья должна быть представлена в двух экземплярах, на русском или английском языках, напечатанная через **полтора интервала на одной стороне стандартного листа с шириной левого поля в три сантиметра**. Используемый компьютерный шрифт для текста на русском и английском языках - **Times New Roman (Кириллица)**, для текста на грузинском языке следует использовать **AcadNusx**. Размер шрифта - **12**. К рукописи, напечатанной на компьютере, должен быть приложен CD со статьей.

2. Размер статьи должен быть не менее десяти и не более двадцати страниц машинописи, включая указатель литературы и резюме на английском, русском и грузинском языках.

3. В статье должны быть освещены актуальность данного материала, методы и результаты исследования и их обсуждение.

При представлении в печать научных экспериментальных работ авторы должны указывать вид и количество экспериментальных животных, применявшиеся методы обезболивания и усыпления (в ходе острых опытов).

4. К статье должны быть приложены краткое (на полстраницы) резюме на английском, русском и грузинском языках (включающее следующие разделы: цель исследования, материал и методы, результаты и заключение) и список ключевых слов (key words).

5. Таблицы необходимо представлять в печатной форме. Фотокопии не принимаются. **Все цифровые, итоговые и процентные данные в таблицах должны соответствовать таковым в тексте статьи**. Таблицы и графики должны быть озаглавлены.

6. Фотографии должны быть контрастными, фотокопии с рентгенограмм - в позитивном изображении. Рисунки, чертежи и диаграммы следует озаглавить, пронумеровать и вставить в соответствующее место текста **в tiff формате**.

В подписях к микрофотографиям следует указывать степень увеличения через окуляр или объектив и метод окраски или импрегнации срезов.

7. Фамилии отечественных авторов приводятся в оригинальной транскрипции.

8. При оформлении и направлении статей в журнал МНГ просим авторов соблюдать правила, изложенные в «Единых требованиях к рукописям, представляемым в биомедицинские журналы», принятых Международным комитетом редакторов медицинских журналов - <http://www.spinesurgery.ru/files/publish.pdf> и http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html В конце каждой оригинальной статьи приводится библиографический список. В список литературы включаются все материалы, на которые имеются ссылки в тексте. Список составляется в алфавитном порядке и нумеруется. Литературный источник приводится на языке оригинала. В списке литературы сначала приводятся работы, написанные знаками грузинского алфавита, затем кириллицей и латиницей. Ссылки на цитируемые работы в тексте статьи даются в квадратных скобках в виде номера, соответствующего номеру данной работы в списке литературы. Большинство цитированных источников должны быть за последние 5-7 лет.

9. Для получения права на публикацию статья должна иметь от руководителя работы или учреждения визу и сопроводительное отношение, написанные или напечатанные на бланке и заверенные подписью и печатью.

10. В конце статьи должны быть подписи всех авторов, полностью приведены их фамилии, имена и отчества, указаны служебный и домашний номера телефонов и адреса или иные координаты. Количество авторов (соавторов) не должно превышать пяти человек.

11. Редакция оставляет за собой право сокращать и исправлять статьи. Корректур авторам не высылаются, вся работа и сверка проводится по авторскому оригиналу.

12. Недопустимо направление в редакцию работ, представленных к печати в иных издательствах или опубликованных в других изданиях.

При нарушении указанных правил статьи не рассматриваются.

REQUIREMENTS

Please note, materials submitted to the Editorial Office Staff are supposed to meet the following requirements:

1. Articles must be provided with a double copy, in English or Russian languages and typed or computer-printed on a single side of standard typing paper, with the left margin of 3 centimeters width, and 1.5 spacing between the lines, typeface - **Times New Roman (Cyrillic)**, print size - 12 (referring to Georgian and Russian materials). With computer-printed texts please enclose a CD carrying the same file titled with Latin symbols.

2. Size of the article, including index and resume in English, Russian and Georgian languages must be at least 10 pages and not exceed the limit of 20 pages of typed or computer-printed text.

3. Submitted material must include a coverage of a topical subject, research methods, results, and review.

Authors of the scientific-research works must indicate the number of experimental biological species drawn in, list the employed methods of anesthetization and soporific means used during acute tests.

4. Articles must have a short (half page) abstract in English, Russian and Georgian (including the following sections: aim of study, material and methods, results and conclusions) and a list of key words.

5. Tables must be presented in an original typed or computer-printed form, instead of a photocopied version. **Numbers, totals, percentile data on the tables must coincide with those in the texts of the articles.** Tables and graphs must be headed.

6. Photographs are required to be contrasted and must be submitted with doubles. Please number each photograph with a pencil on its back, indicate author's name, title of the article (short version), and mark out its top and bottom parts. Drawings must be accurate, drafts and diagrams drawn in Indian ink (or black ink). Photocopies of the X-ray photographs must be presented in a positive image in **tiff format**.

Accurately numbered subtitles for each illustration must be listed on a separate sheet of paper. In the subtitles for the microphotographs please indicate the ocular and objective lens magnification power, method of coloring or impregnation of the microscopic sections (preparations).

7. Please indicate last names, first and middle initials of the native authors, present names and initials of the foreign authors in the transcription of the original language, enclose in parenthesis corresponding number under which the author is listed in the reference materials.

8. Please follow guidance offered to authors by The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors guidance in its Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals publication available online at: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html
http://www.icmje.org/urm_full.pdf

In GMN style for each work cited in the text, a bibliographic reference is given, and this is located at the end of the article under the title "References". All references cited in the text must be listed. The list of references should be arranged alphabetically and then numbered. References are numbered in the text [numbers in square brackets] and in the reference list and numbers are repeated throughout the text as needed. The bibliographic description is given in the language of publication (citations in Georgian script are followed by Cyrillic and Latin).

9. To obtain the rights of publication articles must be accompanied by a visa from the project instructor or the establishment, where the work has been performed, and a reference letter, both written or typed on a special signed form, certified by a stamp or a seal.

10. Articles must be signed by all of the authors at the end, and they must be provided with a list of full names, office and home phone numbers and addresses or other non-office locations where the authors could be reached. The number of the authors (co-authors) must not exceed the limit of 5 people.

11. Editorial Staff reserves the rights to cut down in size and correct the articles. Proof-sheets are not sent out to the authors. The entire editorial and collation work is performed according to the author's original text.

12. Sending in the works that have already been assigned to the press by other Editorial Staffs or have been printed by other publishers is not permissible.

**Articles that Fail to Meet the Aforementioned
Requirements are not Assigned to be Reviewed.**

ავტორთა საქურაღებოლ!

რედაქციაში სტატიის წარმოდგენისას საჭიროა დაიცვათ შემდეგი წესები:

1. სტატია უნდა წარმოადგინოთ 2 ცალად, რუსულ ან ინგლისურ ენებზე დაბეჭდილი სტანდარტული ფურცლის 1 გვერდზე, 3 სმ სიგანის მარცხენა ველისა და სტრიქონებს შორის 1,5 ინტერვალის დაცვით. გამოყენებული კომპიუტერული შრიფტი რუსულ და ინგლისურენოვან ტექსტებში - **Times New Roman (Кириллица)**, ხოლო ქართულენოვან ტექსტში საჭიროა გამოვიყენოთ **AcadNusx**. შრიფტის ზომა – 12. სტატიას თან უნდა ახლდეს CD სტატიით.

2. სტატიის მოცულობა არ უნდა შეადგენდეს 10 გვერდზე ნაკლებს და 20 გვერდზე მეტს ლიტერატურის სიის და რეზიუმეების (ინგლისურ, რუსულ და ქართულ ენებზე) ჩათვლით.

3. სტატიაში საჭიროა გაშუქდეს: საკითხის აქტუალობა; კვლევის მიზანი; საკვლევი მასალა და გამოყენებული მეთოდები; მიღებული შედეგები და მათი განსჯა. ექსპერიმენტული ხასიათის სტატიების წარმოდგენისას ავტორებმა უნდა მიუთითონ საექსპერიმენტო ცხოველების სახეობა და რაოდენობა; გაუტკივარებისა და დაძინების მეთოდები (მწვავე ცდების პირობებში).

4. სტატიას თან უნდა ახლდეს რეზიუმე ინგლისურ, რუსულ და ქართულ ენებზე არანაკლებ ნახევარი გვერდის მოცულობისა (სათაურის, ავტორების, დაწესებულების მითითებით და უნდა შეიცავდეს შემდეგ განყოფილებებს: მიზანი, მასალა და მეთოდები, შედეგები და დასკვნები; ტექსტუალური ნაწილი არ უნდა იყოს 15 სტრიქონზე ნაკლები) და საკვანძო სიტყვების ჩამონათვალი (key words).

5. ცხრილები საჭიროა წარმოადგინოთ ნაბეჭდი სახით. ყველა ციფრული, შემაჯამებელი და პროცენტული მონაცემები უნდა შეესაბამებოდეს ტექსტში მოყვანილს.

6. ფოტოსურათები უნდა იყოს კონტრასტული; სურათები, ნახაზები, დიაგრამები - დასათაურებული, დანომრილი და სათანადო ადგილას ჩასმული. რენტგენოგრაფიების ფოტოასლები წარმოადგინეთ პოზიტიური გამოსახულებით **tiff** ფორმატში. მიკროფოტოსურათების წარწერებში საჭიროა მიუთითოთ ოკულარის ან ობიექტივის საშუალებით გადიდების ხარისხი, ანათალებების შედეგების ან იმპრეგნაციის მეთოდი და აღნიშნოთ სურათის ზედა და ქვედა ნაწილები.

7. სამამულო ავტორების გვარები სტატიაში აღინიშნება ინიციალების თანდართვით, უცხოურისა – უცხოური ტრანსკრიპციით.

8. სტატიას თან უნდა ახლდეს ავტორის მიერ გამოყენებული სამამულო და უცხოური შრომების ბიბლიოგრაფიული სია (ბოლო 5-8 წლის სიღრმით). ანბანური წყობით წარმოდგენილ ბიბლიოგრაფიულ სიაში მიუთითეთ ჯერ სამამულო, შემდეგ უცხოელი ავტორები (გვარი, ინიციალები, სტატიის სათაური, ჟურნალის დასახელება, გამოცემის ადგილი, წელი, ჟურნალის №, პირველი და ბოლო გვერდები). მონოგრაფიის შემთხვევაში მიუთითეთ გამოცემის წელი, ადგილი და გვერდების საერთო რაოდენობა. ტექსტში კვადრატულ ფხიხლებში უნდა მიუთითოთ ავტორის შესაბამისი N ლიტერატურის სიის მიხედვით. მიზანშეწონილია, რომ ციტირებული წყაროების უმეტესი ნაწილი იყოს 5-6 წლის სიღრმის.

9. სტატიას თან უნდა ახლდეს: ა) დაწესებულების ან სამეცნიერო ხელმძღვანელის წარდგინება, დამოწმებული ხელმოწერითა და ბეჭდით; ბ) დარგის სპეციალისტის დამოწმებული რეცენზია, რომელშიც მითითებული იქნება საკითხის აქტუალობა, მასალის საკმაობა, მეთოდის სანდოობა, შედეგების სამეცნიერო-პრაქტიკული მნიშვნელობა.

10. სტატიის ბოლოს საჭიროა ყველა ავტორის ხელმოწერა, რომელთა რაოდენობა არ უნდა აღემატებოდეს 5-ს.

11. რედაქცია იტოვებს უფლებას შეასწოროს სტატია. ტექსტზე მუშაობა და შეჯერება ხდება საავტორო ორიგინალის მიხედვით.

12. დაუშვებელია რედაქციაში ისეთი სტატიის წარდგენა, რომელიც დასაბეჭდად წარდგენილი იყო სხვა რედაქციაში ან გამოქვეყნებული იყო სხვა გამოცემებში.

აღნიშნული წესების დარღვევის შემთხვევაში სტატიები არ განიხილება.

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EVALUATION OF VITAMIN D LEVEL IN SERUM OF PATIENTS WITH VITILIGO

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Abstract.

Background: Vitamin D deficiency promotes initiation and sustainment of numerous medical disorders, including cancer, diabetes mellitus, autoimmune disorders, and cardiovascular diseases. The expression of vitamin D receptors by melanocytes suggests a role for it in controlling their physiology.

Aim: Therefore, the aim of this study was to compare serum vitamin D levels in patients with vitiligo and normal healthy individuals.

Materials and Methods: A cross-sectional study conducted in the Dermatology out-patient clinic at AL-Diwaniyah Teaching Hospital, Iraq, from January 2024 to October 2024. The study involved 50 vitiligo patients (24 males and 26 females) and 50 apparently healthy subjects as controls. The diagnosis of patients was based on clinical presentation and the results of Wood's light examination made by dermatologist. The serum levels of vitamin D were measured and categorized into normal, insufficient and deficient. Statistical analysis was performed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (Version 26) and comparisons were done using Chi-squared and unpaired t-tests. Data is considered significant at $P \leq 0.05$.

Results: The mean serum concentrations of vitamin D of patients and their controls were 15.08 ± 8.29 ng/ml and 20.17 ± 9.05 ng/ml, respectively, ($P < 0.05$). Furthermore, the proportions of individuals with insufficient and deficient vitamin D levels were significantly higher in vitiligo patients than in healthy controls ($P < 0.05$).

Conclusion: Vitamin D concentrations are insufficient in Iraqi people, in general, and in vitiligo patients, in specific. However, the exact mechanism(s) of this association needs to be established for the introduction of this vitamin in the treatment of vitiligo.

Key words. Autoimmune disease, Melanocytes, receptor, Vitiligo, Vitamin D.

Introduction.

Vitiligo is a dermatological condition that affects approximately 2 % of the population worldwide [1]. The pathophysiological mechanism of disease is incompletely understood; however, there is immune-mediated destruction of skin melanocytes in afflicted sites leading to depigmentation [2,3]. Such immune-mediated mechanism could explain the association of vitiligo "with other autoimmune disorders such as thyroid disease, systemic lupus, Addison's disease, inflammatory bowel disease, alopecia areata and pernicious anemia" [4,5].

Genetic bases of the disease have been suggested by previous studies and several genes have been particularly implicated as risk factors for the disease [6-8]. Although vitiligo neither causes serious symptoms nor threatens patient's life, it has a

great impact on patient's well-being and psychology, with females and people of color are the most afflicted [9,10].

Nowadays, there is a great deal of debate regarding the contribution made by vitamin D to pathogenesis of a range of medical disorders. In the last several decades, researchers have accumulated considerable evidence concerning the effect of vitamin D in the pathogenesis of numerous disorders accompanying civilization, including cancer, diabetes mellitus, autoimmune disorders, and cardiovascular diseases [11]. Moreover, the expression of vitamin D receptors by melanocytes suggests that vitamin D may contribute to the control of melanocytes function and, probably, to the pathogenesis of vitiligo [12].

However, in specific for population living in AL-Diwaniyah province, wearing more conservative clothing (particularly in women who cover practically their entire bodies for religious and cultural factors) can prevent skin exposure to sun light and subsequent dermal synthesis of vitamin D. Also, most of those people possess darker skin colors which is an established risk contributor for vitamin D insufficiency because melanin filters ultra-violet light. Therefore, the aim of current study was to compare serum vitamin D levels in patients with vitiligo with those in normal healthy individuals at AL-Diwaniyah province, middle of Iraq.

Materials and Methods.

A cross-sectional study that involved 24 males and 26 females (total = 50) with vitiligo, in addition to 50 randomly selected sex-matched apparently healthy subjects as controls. Vitiligo patients were recruited from those attending the Dermatology out-patient clinic at AL-Diwaniyah Teaching Hospital, AL-Diwaniyah Province/ Iraq, during the period from January 2024 to October 2024. The diagnosis of patients was based on their clinical presentation and the results of Wood's light examination made by dermatology specialists.

Current study included patients having vitiligo (whether local, segmental or generalized) and with normal thyroid function while those with other types of autoimmune diseases such as immune disorders affecting thyroid gland and diabetes mellitus (type 1), those receiving vitamin D supplementation and those undergoing phototherapy, were not included.

Blood concentrations of vitamin D were estimated in the laboratory of the Teaching Hospital using the "Elecsys Vitamin D total II cobas by Roche". The levels of vitamin D were categorized into normal, insufficient and deficient when they are >30 ng/ml, $20-30$ ng/ml or <20 ng/ml, respectively; these values were listed as references by the hospital laboratory. Moreover, statistical evaluation was done using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS; version 26, IBM, USA, Chicago).

Numeric variables were presented as minimal value, maximum value and mean±standard deviation. Qualitative data were presented as of numbers and percentages. Comparisons were done using Chi-squared and unpaired t-tests. Data considered significant at $P \leq 0.05$.

Results.

Data from current study revealed that the demographic characteristics did not statistically differ between vitiligo patients and their healthy controls ($P > 0.05$; Table 1).

In addition, the mean serum concentration of vitamin D in patients with vitiligo ($15.08 \pm 8.29 \text{ ng/ml}$) was significantly lower than that of control subjects ($20.17 \pm 9.05 \text{ ng/ml}$) ($P < 0.05$; Table 2). Moreover, vitiligo patients recruited in current study had lower serum concentrations of vitamin D than their healthy controls ($P < 0.05$; Table 2).

Table 1. Age and gender distributions among study subjects.

Characteristic	Vitiligo patients $n = 50$	Healthy controls $n = 50$	P
Age (year)			
Mean \pm SD	24.09 \pm 9.82	25.28 \pm 11.04	>0.05 ¹
Range	6-71	7-65	
Gender			
Male	24 (48 %)	25 (50 %)	>0.05 ^c
Female	26 (52 %)	25 (50 %)	

n: number of cases; ^c: Chi-squared test; **SD**: standard deviation; ¹: unpaired t-test.

Table 2. Mean serum vitamin D concentrations in healthy controls and vitiligo patients.

Characteristic	Patients $n = 50$	Control $n = 50$	p
Vitamin D (ng/ml)			
Mean \pm SD	15.08 \pm 8.29	20.17 \pm 9.05	<0.05 ¹
Range	3.43-41	7.72-45	
Normal	5(10 %)	12(24 %)	<0.05 ^c
Insufficient	10(20 %)	18(36 %)	
Deficient	35(70 %)	20(40 %)	

n: number of cases; ¹: unpaired t-test; **SD**: standard deviation; ^c: Chi-squared test.

Discussion.

Vitamin D is insufficient when its serum level below 30ng/ml and it is deficient when its level below 20ng/ml. Current study revealed that 36% of the healthy participants had inadequate serum concentrations of this vitamin while 40% of them had lacking concentrations of it (Table 2). Moreover, vitiligo patients had much lower concentrations of this vitamin when compared with healthy controls recruited in current study. These findings were in agreement with those reported by other studies [13-15].

In general, low dietary consumption of egg yolk, fish, milk as well as cereals, renal/hepatic diseases and/or reduced sun exposure might contribute to vitamin D insufficiency/deficiency, as approximately 90% of vitamin D in the body is synthesized by keratinocytes following sun exposure [13,14,16]. However, in specific for population involved in current study, wearing more conservative clothing (particularly in women who cover

practically their entire bodies for religious and cultural factors) can prevent skin exposure to sun light and subsequent dermal synthesis of vitamin D. Also, most of our population possess darker skin colors which is an established risk contributor for vitamin D insufficiency because melanin filters ultra-violet light.

Low serum levels of vitamin D have been reported in different dermatological conditions. For example, a Turkish study [13] reported the association between vitamin D deficiency and pathogenesis of onychomycosis. Another study conducted in Iran reported a relationship between vitamin D deficiency and development of pityriasis versicolor [14]. Moreover, a recent study reported an association between low vitamin D levels and psoriasis in Iraqi patients [15]. Moreover, the relationship between low serum levels of this vitamin and development of vitiligo has been reported by a number of previous studies [17-22]. However, a recent study conducted in Jordan reported statistically insignificant variations concerning serum concentrations of this vitamin between vitiligo patients and their healthy controls [23]. In addition, such studies provide evidence regarding the possible effect of this vitamin on the development of vitiligo.

The possible mechanism(s) behind such role are still under ongoing investigations. For example, a previous study concluded that vitamin D plays an effective role in preventing oxidative damage to human melanocytes [24]. Another example, it was concluded that “1 α , 25-dihydroxyvitamin D3” protects against apoptosis of skin melanocytes by producing sphingosine-1-phosphate [25]. Adding more, in terms of the link between this vitamin and the disease in question, it was reported that vitiligo patients exhibit higher expression of its receptors [21]. Moreover, in cultured human-derived melanocytes, it has been demonstrated that “1 α , 25-dihydroxyvitamin D3” promotes melanogenesis and stimulated the production of increased concentrations of tyrosinase by cultured cells [26]. As a consequence, elegant employment of the aforementioned potential mechanism of vitamin D may result in its utilization in the treatment of this chronic skin disease.

Limitations of study.

Limitations of the current study include single-center study as well as recruitment of a small number of participants. In addition, daily sun-exposure time and body surface area exposed to sun has not been considered in current study which might have contributed to confounding. Moreover, a causal relationship between the study variables (vitamin D and vitiligo) could not be established, a drawback common for cross-sectional studies.

Conclusion.

Serum concentrations of “1 α , 25-dihydroxyvitamin D3” are insufficient in Iraqi people, in general, and in vitiligo patients, in specific. However, the exact mechanism(s) of this possible association need to be established for the introduction of this vitamin in the treatment of vitiligo.

Conflict of interest: None.

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Ethical approval:

It is obtained from Research Ethics Committee at the College of Medicine/ University of AL-Qadisiyah, AL-Diwaniyah Province, Iraq.

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