

MANAGEMENT OF BLEEDING AND REVERSAL OF ANTICOAGULATION IN ANTICOAGULATED PATIENTS

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	Changes in v1.1: Update regarding Octaplex doses between 1500-3000IU does not require Haematologist authorisation.			

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1.0 Introduction

Major haemorrhage with oral antithrombotic drugs is infrequent but management can be difficult especially with antithrombotic for which there are no specific reversal agents.

Bleeding during antithrombotic therapy is associated with high morbidity and mortality. Before any antithrombotic treatment is started, the risks and benefits should be carefully considered.

In this guideline we consider the management of bleeding in patients on the more widely used antithrombotic agents including heparin, oral vitamin K antagonists such as warfarin and direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs).

2.0 Objective

This guideline provides clinical staff with guidance on the management of bleeding in those taking antithrombotic drugs and reversal of the action of these drugs.

3.0 Scope of Guideline

This guideline applies to the management of all patients who experience bleeding with antithrombotic drugs, and all clinical staff caring for this patient group should be aware of this guideline.

This guideline does not apply to the perioperative management of anticoagulated patients – please refer to the separate Trust guideline.

4.0 Guideline

4.1 General Measures to Manage Bleeding

In many cases, simple non-pharmacological measures and stabilization of the patient whilst the antithrombotic is eliminated are sufficient to treat or prevent bleeding. The general non-pharmacological measures that should be taken include:

- Stop the antithrombotic drug
- Document the time and amount of last drug dose and presence of hepatic or renal impairment
- Assess the source of bleeding
- Request FBC, coagulation screen, fibrinogen, renal function & liver function
- If available, request a specific laboratory test to measure the effect of the drug.(ie INR for warfarin, anti Xa for LMWH, DOAC levels if available)
- Correct haemodynamic compromise with intravenous fluids/blood products
- Apply mechanical pressure, if appropriate

• Use endoscopic, radiological or surgical measures to arrest haemorrhage Pharmacological measures are specific to the antithrombotic, see tables/sections below.

4.2 Unfractionated Heparin

Given the short plasma half-life of unfractionated heparin (UFH), treatment or prevention of bleeding can often be achieved by stopping UFH and the use of general measures. UFH can be rapidly reversed with protamine sulphate, which is derived from fish sperm and forms a stable, inactive salt with heparin.

Antithrombotic Agent	Unfractionated Heparin		
Half Life	Short		
Initial Management	Stop Heparin Infusion		
Reversal Agent	Protamine Sulphate		
Dose of Reversal Agent	• Calculated from the quantity of UFH administered in the		
	2 hours prior to reversal		
	• 1mg protamine reverses 80-100 units of UFH.		
	• This should be given no faster than 5mg/min to		
	minimize the risk of adverse reactions		
	• The maximum recommended dose of 50mg protamine is		
	sufficient to reverse UHF in most settings.		
	• If heparin has been stopped >15 minutes, discuss with		
	haematology and refer to protamine summary of product		
	characteristics (SPC) as a lower dose may be required.		
Reversal Agent location	Pharmacy/emergency medicines store/ward stock		
Monitoring	APTT Ratio		
	Note- APTT ratio of 0.8-1.2 suggests no heparin effect		
	In the context of continued life-threatening bleeding discuss		
	other haemostatic measures with the on-call haematologist.		
Cautions	Protamine can cause severe allergic reactions including		
	anaphylaxis, hypotension, bronchospasm and skin reactions in		
	up to 10% of patients.		

Table 1: Guidance on Reversal of Unfractionated Heparin

4.3 Low Molecular Weight Heparin

Low Molecular Weight Heparins (LMWH) are derived from UFH through chemical or enzymatic degradation. Although LMWH may prolong the APTT this should not be used in monitoring the degree of anticoagulation.

Antithrombotic Agent	Low Molecular Weight Heparin	
Half Life	This can vary depending on their chain length; however the	
	half-life of the anticoagulant effect of LMWH is approximately	
	4 hours. This is prolonged in renal impairment.	
Initial Management	Apply general measures listed above. Consider if reversal agent	
	is needed.	

Table 2: Guidance on Reversal of Low Molecular Weight Heparin

Reversal Agent	Protamine Sulphate- Reverses approximately 60% of LMWH.		
	and may be used in the context of bleeding		
Doso of Dovorsal Agont	I MWII a dministered within 9 hours of the time of		
Dose of Reversal Agent	• Livi w H administered within 8 hours of the time of		
	requirement for correction of anticoagulation: give		
	protamine sulphate (1mg per 100 anti-Xa units of		
	LMWH). If ineffective, consider further protamine		
	sulphate 500 micrograms per 100 anti-Xa units.		
	Maximum dose in 24 hours is 50mg. Maximum infusion		
	rate of 5mg/min to minimize the risk of adverse		
	reactions.		
	• LMWH administered greater than 8 hours from the		
	time of requirement of correction of anticoagulation:		
	consider giving a half dose of protamine.		
Reversal Agent location	Pharmacy/emergency medicines store/ward stock		
8	Thannacy/emergency medicines store/ward stock		
Monitoring	Anti-Xa assay (untimed). Guidance on the interpretation of		
Monitoring	Anti-Xa assay (untimed). Guidance on the interpretation of results may be obtained from the on-call Haematologist.		
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4.4 Vitamin K Antagonists (e.g. Warfarin)

The management of bleeding and reversal of anticoagulation with vitamin K antagonists such as warfarin depends on the urgency of which reversal of anticoagulation is required, which is dictated by the clinical situation.

There are two agents which can be used for the reversal of Vitamin K Antagonists -

- Vitamin K (phytomenadione)- Available as both IV and oral preparations from pharmacy and ward stock in some areas.
- Prothrombin Complex Concentrate (PCC) Octaplex. This is issued by the Hospital Transfusion Laboratory

The management of warfarin associated bleeding is summarised in Figure 1, further information can be found in Table 3.



Figure 1. Flow chart for the management of warfarin associated bleeding

Table 3: Guidance on Reversal of Warfarin

Major Bleeding with Warfarin- Life threatening bleeding

- Resuscitate and utilise non-pharmacological measures to manage bleeding as necessary
- Withhold Warfarin
- Send samples for INR, FBC, group and save/ plasma cross match
- Discuss with haematologist
- Administer Vitamin K (Phytomenadione- Konakion MM) 5mg by slow IV injection over 2 minutes. Alternatively Vitamin K can be diluted in 50ml Glucose 5% and administered over 10 minutes.
- ******Administer **PCC** (Octaplex) 25-50 units/kg (maximum dose 3000 units). Instructions for the reconstitution of PCC are found in Appendix 2 and with the issued product. The infusion should start at a speed of 1 mL per minute, followed by 2-3 mL per minute, using an aseptic technique. Batch number <u>must</u> be recorded.
- Recheck INR within 1 hour of administering PCC

- If repeat INR remains elevated discuss with on-call Haematologist
- Consider activating the Massive Haemorrhage Pathway.

**'Octaplex (Prothombin Complex Concentrate) – check dose ordered. If the dose requested is less than 1,500IU or more than 3,000IU ask the prescriber to speak to a Haematology registrar for guidance. (Maximum dose is 3,000IU). So there is no requirement for Haematologist authorisation for issues of the product between 1500 and 3000IU.'

Non-Major Bleeding with Warfarin- Less Severe Haemorrhage- Haematuria, Epistaxis

- Withhold Warfarin and check INR
- Non-pharmacological measures to manage bleeding
- Discuss with a clinical haematologist
- If INR >3.0, administer Vitamin K 1-3mg via slow IV injection
- Recheck INR 6 hours after administration of Vitamin K

Elevated INR due to Warfarin in absence of bleeding

- Check INR
- INR 5-8 administer **Vitamin K 1-3mg PO** (paediatric injection to administered orally) if considered to be at high risk of bleeding
- INR >8 administer **Vitamin K 1-5mg PO** (paediatric injection to administered orally)
- Repeat INR in 24 hours.

Unexpected bleeding or headache at therapeutic levels of INR

- Cause of bleeding should be investigated as for patients who are not taking warfarin
- Modify warfarin dose as appropriate
- If cerebral haemorrhage is suspected INR should be reversed as soon as possible as in major bleeding

4.5 Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs) - Dabigatran, Rivaroxaban, Apixaban, Edoxaban

The management of bleeding in the presence of these drugs is largely through cessation of treatment and general haemostatic measures.

In the context of major bleeding there may be a role for pro-haemostatic agents. Their use must be guided by a haematologist on the basis of the published evidence. Note: Vitamin K and protamine administration will be ineffective in the reversal of these agents and have no role in reversal of bleeding under DOACs

Antithrombotic	Direct Oral Anticoagulants			
Agent	Factor Xa Inhibitor		Direct Thrombin Inhibitors	
	Apixaban	Rivaroxaban	Edoxaban	Dabigatran
Half Life	12 hours	5-13 hours	10-14	12-18hours. Normalisation of
			hours	plasma levels depends on
	Normalisa	tion of plasma l	evels within	CrCl
		12-24 hours		Normal Function- 12-24 hours CrCl 50-80ml/min- 24-36hours
				CrCl 30-50ml/min- 36-48hours CrCl <30ml/min- >48hours
Initial Management	• Ces	ssation of treatm	ent- Confirn	n prescribed regime and timing
	of l	ast dose		
	• Ge	neral haemostati	c measures	
	• Flu	id replacement		
	• Co:	nsider stopping a	antiplatelet t	herapy and other factors which
	ma	y influence plasi	ma concentra	ation
	• Request FBC, Group & Save, eGFR, APTT, PT, fibrinogen			
	• Request drug levels			
Devencel A gent	Consider activated charcoar if ingested within 2 hours Andevanet Alfa Iderucizamab			
Keversai Agent	(off	Andexanet Ana	an)	(Droubin d [®])
	(On laber for edoxaball) (Praxbind [°])			(Praxolnd [*])
	Only for life threatening or			
	uncontrolled GI bleeding			
Dose of Reversal				ig IV over two consecutive
Agent	See dosing tables below i			nfusions of 2.5g no more than
Maniference	15 minutes apart			
wontoring	Routine coagulation tests for these agents are difficult to interpret, and			
	often do not reflect the bleeding tendency. Interpretation should be			
	guided by a Haematologist.			
	The haematology laboratory has the ability to assay Rivaroxaban,			
	Apixaban, Edoxaban and Dabigatran levels –these should be discussed			
	with a clinical Haematologist.			
Cautions	In the context of continued life-threatening bleeding discuss other			
	haemostatic measures with the on-call haematologist.			

Table 4: Guidance on Reversal of Direct Oral Anticoagulants

The management of DOAC associated bleeding is summarised in table 5:-

Table 5: Guidance on management of bleeding for patient taking Direct Oral Anticoagulants Life threatening

- Call consultant Haematologist
- Initiate Trust Massive Haemorrhage pathway
- Discuss the use of haemostatic agents
- Consider haemodialysis
- Consider reversal agent

** Even after direct reversal significant DOAC concentrations may reappear in some patients and contribute to recurrent or continued bleeding.***

Non life-threatening Major Bleeding

- Supportive measures
 - Mechanical compression
 - Endoscopic Haemostasis if gastrointestinal bleed
 - Surgical Haemostasis
 - o Fluid replacement
 - \circ RBC Substitution aiming for Hb >7g/dl
 - $\circ~$ Platelet transfusion aiming for platelets >50 x 10⁹ or >100 x 10⁹ if CNS bleeding
 - Maintain BP and urine output
- Consider Tranexamic acid 1g IV bolus over 10mins
- For Dabigatran-Consider idarucizumab or haemodialysis

Minor Bleeding

- Mechanical Compression
- Delay next dose or discontinue drug
- Reconsider choice of DOAC
- Reconsider concomitant medication aimed at treating the cause of bleeding e.g.-PPI for gastric ulcers

Dabigatran Reversal

Idarucizumab (Praxbind[©]) is a licensed humanised monoclonal antibody which binds specifically to dabigatran to block its anticoagulant affects and its metabolites. It neutralises anticoagulant activity by forming a stable complex which is then excreted.

It is licensed for use in adults treated with dabigatran etexilate (Pradaxa), when rapid reversal of anticoagulation is required, such as for:-

- Emergency surgery or urgent procedures
 - Stop dabigatran
 - Consider deferring surgery for > 12 hours
 - Optimise Hb and platelets
 - Inform anaesthetist
- Life threatening, uncontrolled bleeding
 - Stop dabigatran and anti-platelets
 - Initiate local/ supportive measures
 - o Follow Trust Massive Haemorrhage Pathway

IMPORTANT- Idarucizumab will NOT reverse the action of other anticoagulants. Its action is specific to dabigatran. It must NOT be given unless the patient has taken dabigatran.

Dose- 5 grams IV as two consecutive infusions of 2.5 grams in 50ml over 5 - 10 minutes each or as two 2.5 gram bolus injections.

Supply- Idarucizumab is available from the transfusion laboratory. If a dose is given, the pharmacy department should be informed to ensure replacement stock is ordered.

Administration of a second 5 gram dose may be considered in the following situations only when approved by a haematologist:-

- Recurrence of clinically relevant bleeding together with a prolonged APTT
- If potential re-bleeding would be life threatening or a prolonged APTT is observed
- Patients require a second emergency surgery or urgent procedure and have a prolong APTT

Absence of antithrombotic therapy exposes patients to the thrombotic risk of their underlying disease or condition.

Apixaban, rivaroxaban and edoxaban reversal

Andexanet Alfa (Ondexxya) is a recombinant form of human factor Xa which binds specifically to apixaban, rivaroxaban and edoxaban thereby reversing their anticoagulant effects.

It is licensed for reversal of apixaban or rivaroxaban in life-threatening or uncontrolled bleeding. However, it is only commissioned for use in with lifethreatening or uncontrolled bleeding if the bleed is in the gastrointestinal tract. Andexanet alfa is recommended only in research for reversing anticoagulation from apixaban or rivaroxaban in adults with life-threatening or uncontrolled bleeding in the skull (intracranial haemorrhage; ICH), in the form of an ongoing randomised trial mandated by the regulator. If a patient taking a DOAC presents with another source of life-threatening bleeding this should be discussed urgently with the on-call haematology consultant and a decision may be made to administer andexanet alfa in exceptional circumstances.

The use of andexanet alfa for reversal of edoxaban is off-label however there is evidence to support its use. At the time of writing the preliminary results of the ANNEXA-4 study show that andexanet alfa significantly decreased anti-factor Xa activity and excellent or good haemostasis at 12 hours was observed in 75.0% of patients.

See appendix 3 for details of reconstitution and administration of and exanet alfa and appendix 4 for further dosing information.

Dose-

The dose of andexanet alfa should be calculated using the patient's regular dose of apixaban, rivaroxaban or edoxaban.

 Table 6: Andexanet alfa dosing regimens

	Initial intravenous bolus	Continuous intravenous infusion	Total number of 200mg vials needed
Low dose	400mg at a target rate of 30mg/min	4mg/min for 120mg minutes (480mg)	5
High dose	800mg at a target rate of 30mg/min	8mg/min for 120mg minutes (960mg)	9

Reversal of apixaban

The recommended dose regimen of andexanet alfa is based on the dose of apixaban the patient is taking at the time of anticoagulation reversal, as well as on the time since the patient's last dose of apixaban (see table 7).

Table 7: Summary of dosing for reversal of apixaban

FXa inhibitor	Last dose	Timing of last dose before and exanet alfa initiation	
		< 8 hours or unknown	≥ 8 hours
Anivahan	≤ 5 mg	Low dose	Low dooo
Apixaban	> 5 mg/ Unknown	High dose	Low dose

Reversal of rivaroxaban

The recommended dose regimen of andexanet alfa is based on the dose of rivaroxaban the patient is taking at the time of anticoagulation reversal, as well as on the time since the patient's last dose of rivaroxaban (see table 8).

Table 8: Summary of dosing for reversal of rivaroxaban

FXa inhibitor	Last dose	Timing of last dose before and exanet alfa initiation	
		< 8 hours or unknown	≥ 8 hours
	≤ 10 mg	Low dose	
Rivaroxaban	> 10 mg/ Unknown	High dose	Low dose

Reversal of edoxaban

The recommended dose regimen of andexanet alfa is based on the dose of edoxaban the patient is taking at the time of anticoagulation reversal, as well as on the time since the patient's last dose of rivaroxaban (see table 9).

Table 9: Summary of dosing for reversal of edoxaban

FXa inhibitor	Last dose	Timing of last dose before and exanet alfa initiation	
		< 8 hours or unknown	≥ 8 hours
Edovobon	30 mg	Low dose	Low dooo
Euoxaban	60 mg/ Unknown	High dose	Low dose

Supply- Andexanet alfa is available from the transfusion laboratory. If a dose is given, the pharmacy department should be informed to ensure replacement stock is ordered.

Administration- Andexanet alfa is administered as an intravenous bolus at a target rate of approximately 30 mg/min over 15 minutes (low dose) or 30 minutes (high dose), followed by administration of a continuous infusion of 4 mg/min (low dose) or 8 mg/min (high dose) for 120 minutes (see table 6).

4.6 Other anticoagulants

There is no specific reversal agent for fondaparinux, danaparoid or argatroban. If bleeding occurs whilst prescribed one of these agents, treatment should be stopped and general haemostatic measures taken. Contact the on-call clinical haematologist for further advice.

4.7 Restarting anticoagulation after bleeding

The reintroduction of anticoagulation following bleeding is clinically guided reanticoagulation should be considered to prevent thrombotic events due to the patient's underlying medical condition. Medical judgement should balance the benefits of anticoagulation with the risks of re-bleeding

Dabigatran etexilate treatment can be re-initiated 24 hours after administration of idarucizumab, if the patient is clinically stable and adequate haemostasis has been achieved. Other anticoagulants may be re-introduced once clinically indicated/appropriate. Haematology advice can be sought for alternative anticoagulants and interventions (e.g IVC filter).

5.0 Roles and Responsibilities

This guideline applies to clinicians involved in the care of patients receiving antithrombotic drugs with bleeding or other reasons for reversal. Directorate Managers and Clinical Directors should disseminate the guideline and encourage its implementation.

6.0 Associated documentation and references

on the management of bleeding in patients on antithrombotic agents. British Journal of Haematology, 160: 35–46

British Committee for Standards in Haematology (2011), Guidelines on oral anticoagulation with warfarin – fourth edition. British Journal of Haematology, 154: 311–324

Management of the warfarinised patient requiring urgent surgery. Trust Policy ID 2054.

Trust Formulary. Chapter 2 Cardiovascular System- Reversal of anticoagulation. 02.08.03.

Electronic Medicines Compendium (eMC). Praxbind 2.5 g/50 mL solution for injection/infusion. 2019. <u>https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/5073</u>

Electronic Medicines Compendium (eMC). Ondexxya 200mg powder for solution for infusion 2021 <u>https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/10933</u>

Andexanet alfa for reversing anticoagulation from apixaban or rivaroxaban. Technology appraisal guidance [TA697]. 2021 <u>https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta697/chapter/1-Recommendations</u>

Andexanet Alfa for Acute Bleeding During Treatment With Edoxaban. https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/10.1161/str.52.suppl_1.P3

7.0 Training & Resources

No specific training requirements identified.

Guideline

Appendix 1 - Glossary of Terms used within Guideline

Antithrombotic A drug where the mechanism of action inhibits the normal thrombotic pathway, such as Heparins, Warfarin and Novel Oral Anticoagulants Anti- Xa A test that monitors blood clotting in patients taking anticoagulant drugs, such as low molecular weight heparin or unfractionated heparin. Heparins bind to antithrombin, which inhibits clotting factor Xa. APTT Activated partial thromboplastin time International Normalised Ratio INR IV Intravenous Low Molecular Weight Heparin LMWH DOAC Direct Oral Anticoagulant. This group of drugs includes dabigatran, rivaroxaban, apixaban and edoxaban. PCC Prothrombin Complex Concentrate – a blood product containing Vitamin K dependant Coagulation Factors. The Trust stocks the 4-factor PCC Octaplex which contains Factors II, VII, IX, X, Protein C and Protein S. PO The expression is used in medicine to describe a treatment that is taken orally. UFH Unfractionated Heparin

Appendix 2 – Octaplex Reconstitution Instructions 1.

OCIOPEX[®] (500 IU coagulation factor IX per vial, powder and solvent for infusion, Human Prothrombin Complex)

octaplex[®] Mix2Vial[™] Instructions for reconstitution

Follow the hospital's aseptic procedures at all times. Working on a clean flat surface, remove the vials from the outer packaging and remove the flip top lids. Disinfect the vial injection sites with an alcohol swab.



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octapharma

The reconstitution guidelines above have been adapted from octaplex[®] Summary of product characteristics and reconstitution direction from Mix2Vial™ of West Pharmaceutical Services.



2. Appendix 3 – Andexanet alfa reconstitution and administration information

This medicinel product has been authorised under a so-called 'conditional approval' scheme. This means that further evidence on this medicinel product is awaited."

Ondexxya[®] reconstitution and administration¹

1. Preparing the (200 mg Ondexxya®) vials

- Ondexxya® does not need to be brought to room temperature before reconstitution or administration to the patient. Aseptic technique during the reconstitution procedure should be used.
- Remove the flip-top
- Wipe the rubber stopper of each vial with an alcohol swab

2. Reconstituting the lyophilisate in the vials

Per vial

- Using a 20 mL (or larger) syringe and a 20-gauge (or larger) needle, withdraw 20 mL of water for injection
- Insert the syringe needle through the centre of the vial's rubber stopper
- Push the plunger down slowly to inject the water for injections into the vial

IMPORTANT: Carefully direct the stream of water for injection toward the inside wall of the vial to minimise foaming.

Inject all required vials before proceeding to the next step.

3. Dissolve

- Gently swirl each vial until the powder is completely dissolved
- Do NOT shake the vial(s), as this can lead to foaming

IMPORTANT: The powder will have dissolved and the solution will be ready for use after approximately 3–5 minutes.

4. Inspect

- Prior to administration, inspect the reconstituted solution for particulate matter and/or discolouration
- Do not use if the solution contains opaque particles or is discoloured
- Solution after reconstitution: 10 mg/mL

IMPORTANT: The reconstituted solution is clear, colourless or slightly yellow.

5. Transfer Withdraw the r

Withdraw the reconstituted solution from each vial into the large-volume (50 mL or larger) syringes (equipped with a 20-gauge or larger needle) Administration by syringe pump

IMPORTANT

- Low dose: 1 infusion syringe intravenous (IV) bolus, 1 infusion syringe continuous IV infusion
- High dose: 2 infusion syringes IV bolus, 2 infusion syringes continuous IV infusion
- Hold the syringe needle upright and do not set the syringe down between multiple withdrawals from vials (to prevent air bubbles)

Use of IV bags

- Transfer the reconstituted solution from the syringe into an appropriate IV bag
- It is recommended to split the solution intended for bolus and continuous infusion into two separate bags to ensure the correct administration rate

6. Administration

The IV rate is the same whether using a syringe pump or IV bags.

IV bolus rate

Low dose: 400 mg, which corresponds to 40 mL, 180 mL/hr, administered over approximately 15 minutes.

High dose: 800 mg, which corresponds to 80 mL, 180 mL/hr, administered over approximately 30 minutes.

Continuous IV infusion rate

Low dose: 480 mg, which corresponds to 48 mL, 24 mL/hr, for 120 minutes. High dose: 960 mg, which corresponds to 96 mL, 48 mL/hr, for 120 minutes.

The infusion should be administered using 0.2 µm (or 0.22 µm) in-line filters (polyethersulfone [PES] or a similar material with low protein binding).

All used syringes, needles, and vials, including any unused portion of reconstituted solution, should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

In-use stability after reconstitution

In primary packaging/vial: 16 hours at 2–8°C
 Ready-to-use medication: a further 8 hours at room temperature (< 25°C)

From a microbiological point of view, once reconstituted, the product should be used immediately. If this is not the case, the user is responsible for the storage times and conditions prior to use.





This medicinal product is subject to additional monitoring.











Ondexxya[®] dosage recommendations¹

Two dosing regimens, individualised depending on the specific direct factor Xa (FXa) inhibitor, last individual dose of FXa inhibitor and time since last FXa inhibitor dose¹



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