Research Article

Prevalence and Associated Factors of Chronic Kidney Disease among Adult Hypertensive Patients at Northwest Amhara Referral Hospitals, Northwest Ethiopia, 2020

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Background. Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a progressive loss of the kidney function which leads to a decreased kidneys’ ability to process waste in the blood and it affects the other important functions of the kidney. The disease has different stages that can alter the health status of individuals. During the early stages, patients may present with a normal or slight decrease in glomerular filtration rate (GFR) and albuminuria. Later, it progresses and leads to end-stage renal disease (ESRD) or kidney failure. Hypertension is considered as the major contributing risk factor of CKD. Objective. This study was aimed to assess the prevalence and associated factors of chronic kidney disease among adult hypertensive patients in referral hospitals of the Northwest Ethiopia. Methods. An institution-based cross-sectional study was conducted among 581 adult hypertensive patients in a chronic follow-up clinic in referral hospitals, Northwest Ethiopia, from July to August 2020. Systematic random sampling was used to select the study participants. Data were collected using the interviewer-administered questionnaire and participants medical records. Both bivariable and multiple logistic regression analyses were performed. Model fitness was assessed using a Hosmer—Lemeshow test. Result. The total prevalence of CKD among adult hypertensive patients was 17.6% (95% CI: 14.7–20.8). Diastolic blood pressure ≥90 mmHg (AOR = 8.65; 95% CI: 4.77–15.68), duration of hypertension ≥10 years (AOR = 8.81; 95% CI: 2.47–31.45), stage II HTN (AOR = 2.61; 95% CI: 1.04–6.50), comorbid disease (AOR = 7.0; 95% CI: 2.20–22.21), proteinuria (AOR = 4.59; 95% CI: 2.08–10.12), dyslipidemia (AOR = 3.40; 95% CI: 1.56–7.24), and serum creatinine ≥1 mg/dl (AOR = 8.88; 95% CI: 4.40–17.91) were associated with chronic kidney disease among adult hypertensive patients. Conclusion. In this study, the prevalence of CKD among hypertensive patients found was 17.6%. Regarding associated factors, dyslipidemia, proteinuria, comorbid disease, serum creatinine greater than 0.9 mg/dl, duration of hypertension greater than 10 years, and diastolic blood pressure greater than 90 mmHg are factors associated with the occurrence of chronic kidney disease among hypertensive patients.

1. Background

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) can be explained as a progressive loss of kidney function which results in decreased kidneys’ ability to process waste and it affects the other important functions of the kidney [1]. The disease has different stages that can alter the health status of individuals. During the early stages, patients may present with a normal or slight decrease in glomerular filtration rate (GFR) and albuminuria. Later, it progresses and leads to end-stage renal...
disease (ESRD) or kidney failure [2–4]. Eventhough, the etiology of CKD still needs investigation [5]. Hypertension is considered as the major contributing risk factor of CKD [6, 7].

CKD usually gets worse over time though treatment has been shown to slow progression. If left untreated, it can progress to kidney failure and early cardiovascular disease. When the kidneys stop working, dialysis or kidney transplant is needed for survival. These would have negative impacts and burdens on patients, their families, and healthcare setups at large to the countries [8, 9].

Globally, the prevalence of CKD is significantly rising, and it is associated with major morbidity and mortality that demands special attention as one of the growing public health problems [10]. As it is evidenced by studies in the general population, the prevalence of CKD was 13.4% [10], while the pooled prevalence of CKD in patients with hypertensive was recorded higher as compared to the general population which is 24.7% [11]. Furthermore, as hypertension is the leading risk factor and causes for chronic kidney disease, the prevalence was higher compared with the general population [12].

CKD is associated with an increase in CVD and premature mortality, with detrimental societal and economic challenges [13, 14].

In 2017, CKD was the 12th leading cause of death worldwide and it resulted 1.2 million deaths. Besides, 7.6% of all CVD deaths (1.4 million) attributed to impaired kidney function. Deaths due to CKD or to CKD-attributable CVD accounted for 4.6% of all-cause mortality [15].

As the global burden of disease 2015 study, CKD was the leading cause of death and one of the fastest rising major causes of deaths in which overall mortality due to CKD has increased by 31.7% from 2005 to 2015 [16]. Moreover, in lower and middle-income countries, the prevalence is estimated to be 15% higher compared with high-income countries [17].

The prevalence of CKD among the general population in India, Korea, Pakistan, and Southern China were 17.2%, 13.7%, 12.5%, and 9.4%, respectively [6, 18, 19].

A systematic review in Africa continent indicates that the prevalence of CKD differs from 2% to 41%, and the prevalence among hypertensive patients is ranging from 13%–51%. This systematic review showed that the prevalence of CKD in Burundi, Mali, Nigeria, Egypt, Seychelles, Uganda, Congo, Kenya, Ghana, Cameroon, South Africa, Tanzania, Sudan, Senegal, and Morocco was 45.7%, 40.8%, 29.7%, 18%, 15.3%, 15.2%, 12.4%, 11.5%, 10.2%, 10%, 7.4%, 7%, 6.4%, 6.1%, and 2.9%, respectively [20].

A cross-sectional study conducted in Ethiopia at Tigray teaching hospital and Jimma University both indicate that the prevalence of CKD among hypertensive patients was 22.1% and 26%, respectively [21, 22].

As studies showed in the Glob, age, sex, educational status, residence, marital status, body mass index, comorbidity, type of antihypertensive medications, smoking, alcohol intake, and sedentary lifestyle were the associated factors with CKD [11, 18, 19, 21–28].

The World Health Organization (WHO) report, Ethiopia 2018, indicates that more than 39% of yearly deaths were recorded as a result of the noncommunicable disease including CKD and hypertension [12]. Additionally, CKD has a devastating effect on the nation’s health sector and economy. However, very little is known about it in the study setting. Therefore, this study was aimed to assess the prevalence and associated factors of CKD among hypertensive patients.

2. Methods and Materials

2.1. Study Design and Period. An institution-based cross-sectional study was conducted from July to August/2020.

2.2. Study Area. The study was conducted in Northwest Ethiopia referral hospitals, namely, the University of Gondar Teaching Referral Hospital (UOGTRH), Felege Hiwot Referral Hospital (FHRH), and Debre Markos Referral Hospital (DMRH).

Each of them were estimated to serve for 5–7 million peoples in their catchment area, and UOGTRH has 1200 hypertensive patients, FHRH has 800 hypertensive patients, and DMRH has 600 hypertensive patients, which makes a total of 2600 hypertensive patients attending the chronic illness follow-up clinic in these catchment areas. UOGTRH is found in the Northern part of Amhara Region in Gondar town which has 9 nurses and 4 doctors who work in the chronic illness follow-up clinic regularly. FHRH is found in Bahirdar city, which is the capital city of Amhara Region, which has 8 nurses who work in the clinic regularly, and DMRH is again found at the east of Gojam in Amhara regional state, Northwest Ethiopia, which has 8 nurses who work in the clinic regularly.

2.3. Source and Study Populations. All hypertensive patients aged 18 years and above who had follow-up at the chronic illness clinic of referral hospitals in Northwest Ethiopia were the source population and those who attended during the data collection were the study population.

2.4. Inclusion Criteria. All adult hypertensive patients who had hypertension treatment follow-up at the three referral hospitals and who had medical records.

2.5. Exclusion Criteria. Pregnant women who were diagnosed with pregnancy-induced hypertension were excluded.

2.6. Sample Size Determination and Sampling Procedure

2.6.1. Sample Size Determination. To get the adequate sample size, both the single population proportion formula and significantly associated factors from other study were computed (Table 1).

Accordingly, a single population proportion formula was calculated considering the following assumptions: 95% confidence interval (CI), 22.1% population proportion from the previous study [26], and 4% marginal error.
2.7. Variables of the Study

In this study, dependent variables included chronic kidney disease (yes/no), uncontrolled blood pressure (yes/no), and body swelling (yes/no). Independent variables were age, sex, religion, educational status, occupation, income, marital status, residence, and family history of hypertension. Other independent variables included chronic kidney disease status, blood pressure status, baseline systolic blood pressure, baseline diastolic blood pressure, stage of hypertension, type of hypertension, type of drugs, duration of drugs, number of drugs, comorbidity, dyslipidemia, proteinuria, and obesity.

2.8. Operational Definition

Chronic kidney disease: CKD is defined and identified as when physicians diagnosed the patient as already having chronic kidney disease [29].

2.9. Data Collection Tool and Procedure

A standardized tool was used for data extraction. The tool contains sociodemographic and baseline clinical and treatment-related variables. In addition to face-to-face interview, forms were used for data extraction. The tool contains sociodemographic and baseline clinical and treatment-related variables.
used for laboratory request and follow-up records of hypertension, and patient cards were reviewed.

Two days training was given for data collectors regarding each description of the tool and the way of data collection from patients and their medical records using the extraction tool. For the sake of appropriate data collection, four nurses working in a chronic clinic or at least who have previous experience in an outpatient chronic clinic participated in data collection; one health officer has participated as a supervisor. Then, data were collected from the patient and their medical charts by using a prepared extraction tool. In this way, all patients who fulfill the inclusion criteria were interviewed, and data extraction was completed.

2.10. Data Quality Control. To maintain data quality, an appropriate and standardized extraction tool was used. The data extraction tool was pretested for consistency and completeness of data items on 5% [25] of patient charts at the same hospital. Quality was also maintained by using experienced nurses in the chronic clinic. Even training was given to data collectors for one day before the data collection on the objective of the study and how to extract data for this study purpose using the data extraction format. Each component of the tool was discussed clearly for data collectors. The data extraction process was monitored closely by the supervisor throughout the data collection period. Data clerks also assist data collectors by identifying the charts. After filling each tool, completeness was checked, and the correction was made before the chart returned.

2.11. Data Processing and Analysis. Data were entered into Epi-Info version 7.2.2.6 and then transferred to SPSS version 23 for analysis. Summary statistics were used to look for any missing, and logistic regression was also used to determine crude and adjusted odds ratio (OR). Bivariate analysis was carried out to assess an association between the dependent and all the independent variables, and variables with a p value <0.2 were further entered into the multivariable logistic regression model to control the possible effect of confounders. Model fitness was assessed using the Hosmer–Lemeshow test (0.223). Odds ratios with 95% confidence interval at p value <0.05, cleaning, and analysis were computed to determine the level of significance.

3. Results

3.1. Sociodemographic Characteristics of Participants. In this study, 581 patients were included with a response rate of 100%. Of these, 55.1% were females, the median and standard deviation of the age was 54.71 and 11.397, respectively, 476 (81.9%) were married, 120 (20.7%) had no formal education, 429 (73.8%) were urban inhabitants, 497 (85.5%) were orthodox followers, and 140 (24.1%) were government employee (Table 2).

3.2. Clinical Related Characteristics. Of 581 study subjects, 64 (11%) and 54 (9.3%) of them have greater than and equal to 140 mmHg for systolic and 90 mmHg for diastolic blood pressure, and 429 (73.8%) of them have a BMI of 18.5–24.9. Also, 288 (49.6%) of them are in the second stage of hypertension, 221 (38%) of them have the comorbid disease, and 394 (67.8%) of patients use calcium channel blockers for the treatment of hypertension (Table 3).

3.3. Lifestyle Factors. Among the 581 study subjects, 119 (20.5%) of them are alcohol users and only 28 (4.8%) of them are doing exercise on regular basis (Table 4).

3.3.1. Prevalence of Chronic Kidney Disease among Adult Hypertensive Patients. The total prevalence of CKD among hypertensive patients was 17.6% (95% CI: 14.7–20.8).

3.3.2. Associated Factors of Chronic Kidney Disease among Adult Hypertensive Patients. In bivariable analysis, age less than 60 years, systolic blood pressure greater than 140 mmHg, diastolic blood pressure greater than 90 mmHg, stage II and III hypertension, duration of hypertension greater than 10 years, comorbid disease, drugs other than hypertension, proteinuria, dyslipidemia, serum creatinine, body swelling, beta-blocker, diuretics, and vasodilators, smoking, alcohol use, and exercise were associated with chronic kidney disease at p value <0.2.

However, in multivariable analysis, DBP ≥90 mmHg, duration of hypertension ≥10 years, stage II HTN, proteinuria, dyslipidemia, and serum creatinine ≥0.9 mg/dl

![Table 2: Sociodemographic characteristics of hypertensive patients attending at the chronic follow-up clinic at Northwest Ethiopia referral hospitals, 2020.](image-url)
were associated with chronic kidney disease among hypertensive patients at \( p \) value <0.05.

The odds of CKD were 8.65 times (AOR = 8.65, 95% CI: 4.77–15.68) higher among those who had diastolic blood pressure greater than 90 mmHg as compared to their counterparts.

Patients with duration of hypertension \( \geq 10 \) years were (AOR = 8.81; 95% CI: 2.47–31.45) more likely to develop CKD as compared to patients with duration of hypertension <10 years.

Being stage II HTN patients was 2.61 (AOR = 2.61; 95% CI: 1.04–6.50) times higher among those patients at stage I HTN.

The odds of having CKD was 4.59 times (AOR = 4.59; 95% CI: 2.08–10.12) higher among proteinuria as compared to those patients free from proteinuria. Patients with the comorbid disease were 7 times (AOR = 7; 95% CI: 2.2–22.2) more likely to develop CKD as compared to their counterparts. Regarding to serum creatinine, patients who had creatinine greater than 1 mg/dl had 8.9 times (AOR = 8.9; 95% CI: 4.40–17.91) higher odds of CKD as compared to serum creatinine less than 1 mg/dl. Patients with dyslipidemia had 3.5 times (AOR = 3.40; 95% CI: 1.56–7.24) higher odds of CKD as compared to patients with no dyslipidemia (Table 5).

### 4. Discussion

This study was determined the prevalence of CKD among adult hypertensive patients attending the chronic illness follow-up clinic at Northwest Ethiopia referral hospitals and identified associated factors with CKD among adult hypertensive patients.

In the current study, the prevalence of CKD among adult hypertensive patients was 17.6% (95% CI: 14.7–20.8%). This result was in line with the studies conducted in Jimma (26%) [22] and Addis Ababa Police Hospital (14.6%) [11]. However, the finding of this study was lower than the findings of studies conducted in Ghana (46.9%) [33], Nigeria (38.5%) [20], Burkina Faso (50.8%) [34], South China (23%) [35], Ethiopia (22%) [11], and South Africa (45.5%) [36]. This might be due to the difference in a study subject, sample size difference, the difference in the study setting, outcome ascertainment difference, and the contextual difference between the two countries.

According to this study, long duration of hypertension was associated with chronic kidney disease among adult hypertensive patients, which showed that the duration of hypertension greater than 10 years was almost nine times more likely to develop chronic kidney disease as compared to their counterparts. This finding was in agreement with the studies conducted in Ethiopia [11], Jimma [11], and South China [22]. This might be due to persistent increase of blood pressure predispose hypertensive patients to renal vascular nephropathy, which gradually leads to the decrement of glomerular filtration rate and allowing sufficient time to develop other renal diseases; in other way, nephrons in the kidney are supplied with a dense network of blood vessels, and

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**Table 3**: Clinical factors of hypertensive patients attending at the chronic follow-up clinic at Northwest Ethiopia referral hospitals.

| Factors                  | Category      | Frequency | Percentage |
|--------------------------|---------------|-----------|------------|
| DBP                      | <90           | 527       | 90.7       |
|                          | \( \geq 90 \) | 54         | 9.3        |
| SBP                      | <140          | 517       | 89.0       |
|                          | \( \geq 140 \) | 64         | 11.0       |
| Duration of HTN (years)  | <10           | 550       | 94.7       |
|                          | \( \geq 10 \) | 31         | 5.3        |
| BMI                      | <18.5         | 15        | 2.6        |
|                          | 18.5–24.9     | 429       | 73.8       |
|                          | 25–29.9       | 94        | 16.2       |
|                          | \( >30 \)     | 43        | 7.4        |
| Stage of HTN             | Stage I       | 262       | 45.1       |
|                          | Stage II      | 288       | 49.6       |
|                          | Stage III     | 31        | 5.3        |
| Comorbid disease         | No            | 360       | 62.0       |
|                          | Yes           | 221       | 38.0       |
| Family Hx of HTN         | No            | 541       | 93.1       |
|                          | Yes           | 40        | 6.9        |
| Drugs other than anti-HTN| No            | 373       | 64.2       |
|                          | Yes           | 208       | 35.8       |
| Proteinuria              | No            | 488       | 84.0       |
|                          | Yes           | 93        | 16.0       |
| Dyslipidemia             | No            | 436       | 75.0       |
|                          | Yes           | 145       | 25.0       |
| Body swelling            | No            | 522       | 89.8       |
|                          | Yes           | 59        | 10.2       |
| ACE inhibitor            | No            | 297       | 51.1       |
|                          | Yes           | 284       | 48.9       |
| Beta-blocker             | No            | 525       | 90.4       |
|                          | Yes           | 56        | 9.6        |
| Diuretics                | No            | 329       | 56.6       |
|                          | Yes           | 252       | 43.4       |
| Calcium channel blocker  | No            | 187       | 32.2       |
|                          | Yes           | 394       | 67.8       |
| Vasodilator              | No            | 462       | 79.5       |
|                          | Yes           | 119       | 20.5       |
the high volume of blood flow through them; overtime uncontrolled high blood pressure can cause arteries around the kidney narrow, weaken, or harden. These damaged arteries are not able to deliver enough blood to the kidney tissue [29].

In this study, presence of comorbid (diabetes and CHF) also associated with CKD among adult hypertensive patients showed that patients with the comorbid disease were 7 times more likely to develop chronic kidney disease as compared to their counterpart. This finding was similar to a study conducted in South Asia [30] and South China [33]. This might be due to diabetes if the patient produces little or no insulin, or if the body cannot use the insulin, the sugar remains in the bloodstream instead of going into the cells. Over time, high levels of sugar in the blood damage tiny blood vessels throughout the body including the filter of the kidney. As more damage occurs to the kidney, more fluid and waste remain in the bloodstream instead of being removed, and in patients with cardiac problems, cardiac output may be low in the glomerular filtration membrane [13].

This study also identified elevated diastolic blood pressure as a significant factor for CKD among adult hypertensive patients, which showed that patients with diastolic blood pressure greater than 90 mmHg were 8.65 times more likely to develop chronic kidney disease as compared to their counterpart. This might be due to patients with increased diastolic blood pressure can cause arteries around the kidney to narrow, weaken, or harden and damages filtration [17].

Based on this study, finding dyslipidemia was associated with CKD among adult hypertensive patients, which showed that patients with dyslipidemia were nearly three and half times more likely to develop chronic kidney disease as compared to their counterpart. This result is similar to a study conducted in Iran [37], Ethiopia [11], and South China [38]. This might be due to dyslipidemia may lace the patients for cardiovascular disease, and besides, it causes cholesterol plaque that can lead to clogging of renal arteries and cuff off blood flow to the kidneys resulting in the loss of kidney function, and also, triglyceride is more associated with cardiovascular risk factors when levels are too high [28].

According to this study, serum creatinine greater than 1 mg/dl was associated with chronic kidney disease among hypertensive patients, which showed that patients with serum creatinine greater than 1 mg/dl were 9 times more likely to develop chronic kidney disease among adult hypertensive patients as compared to their counterparts. This result is similar to a study conducted in India [35]. This might be due to as serum creatinine increase. It obstructs the epithelial cells and causes necrotic debris and back leak of filtrate through injured tubular epithelial cells, causing further reduction of the glomerular filtration rate [39].

### Table 5: Bivariate and multivariate analyses of hypertensive patients attending at the chronic follow-up clinic at Northwest Ethiopia referral hospitals.

| Variables                    | CKD |       | COR        | AOR         |
|------------------------------|-----|-------|------------|-------------|
|                              | Yes | No    |            |             |
| SBP  <140 mmHg               | 65  | 452   | 1          |             |
| ≥140 mmHg                    | 37  | 27    | 9.529 (5.44, 16.68) | 1.72 (0.57, 5.21) |
| DBP  <90 mmHg                | 71  | 456   | 1          |             |
| ≥90 mmHg                     | 31  | 23    | 8.656 (4.77, 15.68) | 8.65 (4.77, 15.68) |
| Stage of HTN                 |     |       |            |             |
| Stage I                      | 9   | 253   | 1          |             |
| Stage II                     | 82  | 206   | 11.19 (5.48, 22.81) | 2.61 (1.04, 6.50) |
| Stage III                    | 11  | 20    | 15.46 (5.73, 42.67) | 1.18 (0.26, 5.39) |
| Duration of hypertension     |     |       |            |             |
| <10 years                    | 86  | 464   | 1          |             |
| ≥10 years                    | 16  | 15    | 5.75 (2.74, 12.07) | 8.81 (2.47, 31.45) |
| Comorbid disease             |     |       |            |             |
| No                           | 91  | 130   | 1          |             |
| Yes                          | 11  | 349   | 22.20 (11.51, 42.8) | 7.0 (2.20, 22.21) |
| Drugs other than HTN         |     |       |            |             |
| No                           | 26  | 347   | 1          |             |
| Yes                          | 76  | 132   | 7.64 (4.71, 12.52) | 0.39 (0.14, 1.13) |
| Proteinuria                  |     |       |            |             |
| No                           | 43  | 445   | 1          |             |
| Yes                          | 59  | 34    | 17.95 (10.61, 30.37) | 4.59 (2.08, 10.12) |
| Dyslipidemia                 |     |       |            |             |
| No                           | 27  | 409   | 1          |             |
| Yes                          | 75  | 70    | 16.23 (9.76, 26.96) | 3.40 (1.56, 7.24) |
| Serum creatinine             |     |       |            |             |
| <1 mg/dl                     | 29  | 434   | 1          |             |
| ≥1 mg/dl                     | 73  | 45    | 24.27 (14.31, 34.18) | 8.88 (4.40, 17.91) |
According to this study, proteinuria was associated with chronic kidney disease among adult hypertensive patients, which showed that patients with proteinuria were 4.59 times more likely to develop chronic kidney disease as compared to their counterparts. This finding is similar to a study conducted in Ethiopia [21, 27].

According to this study, stage II HTN was associated with chronic kidney disease, which showed that patients with proteinuria were 2.61 times more likely to develop chronic kidney disease as compared to their counterparts. This finding is similar to a study conducted in India [35]. This might be due to the atherosclerotic, hypertension-related vascular lesions in the kidney primarily affecting the preglomerular arterioles, resulting in ischemic changes in the glomeruli and postglomerular structures. Glomerular injury may also be a consequence of direct damage to the glomerular capillaries due to glomerular hyperperfusion [30]. Since self-reporting was used to this method, it has the disadvantages of recall bias.

The limitation of this study was secondary data, as we could not get potential predictors. It shares also the limitation of the cross-sectional study design.

5. Conclusion

In this study, the prevalence of CKD among hypertensive patients was found to be 17.6%. Besides dyslipidemia, proteinuria, comorbid disease, serum creatinine greater than 1 mg/dl, duration of hypertension greater than 10 years, and diastolic blood pressure greater than 90 mmHg are factors associated with the occurrence of chronic kidney disease among hypertensive patients.

Abbreviations

BMI: Body mass index
BP: Blood pressure
CKD: Chronic kidney disease
CVD: Cardio vascular disease
DM: Diabetes mellitus
DMRH: Debre Markos referral hospital
FHRH: Felege Hiwot referral hospital
HIV/ AIDS: Human immune virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome
NSAIDs: Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
UOGTRH: University of Gondar teaching referral hospital.

Data Availability

The data used to support the findings of this study are included within the article, and the dataset analyzed is available from the corresponding author upon request.

Ethical Approval

Ethical clearance was obtained from the School of Nursing, College Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Gondar. A formal letter indicating the approval was submitted to the University of Gondar Compressive Specialized Hospital Administrative Office, Felege Hiwot Referral Hospital Administrative Office, and Debre Markos Referral Hospital Administrative Office. Also, it was not revealed to anyone, except for the investigator and supervisor, and was kept in a key and locked system with a computer password.

Consent

Verbal informed consent was obtained from the study subjects after a purposeful explanation about the objective and the scope of the study.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

Authors’ Contributions

AH designed the study, developed the proposal, participated in the data collection, performed analysis, and drafted the manuscript. MAT, HSM, and CDA approved the proposal with revisions, participated in data analysis, and revised subsequent drafts of the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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