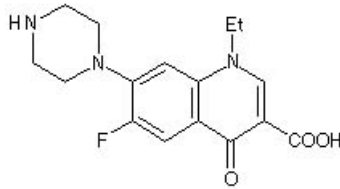


GENRX NORFLOXACIN TABLETS**NAME OF THE MEDICINE**

Norfloxacin

Chemical Name: 1-ethyl-6-fluoro-1,4-dihydro-4-oxo-7-(1-piperazinyl)-3-quinoline carboxylic acid

Chemical Structure:

Molecular Formula: $C_{16}H_{18}FN_3O_3$

Molecular Weight: 319.34

CAS Number: 70458-96-7

DESCRIPTION

Norfloxacin, a fluoroquinolone, is a synthetic antibacterial agent for oral administration.

Norfloxacin is a white to pale yellow crystalline powder. It is freely soluble in glacial acetic acid, and slightly soluble in ethanol, methanol and water. Melting point: approximately 221°C.

Norfloxacin, a fluoroquinolone, differs from quinolones by having a fluorine atom at the 6 position and a piperazine moiety at the 7 position. Examples of antibacterial drugs which are quinolones include nalidixic acid and cinoxacin.

PHARMACOLOGY**Pharmacokinetics**

In fasting healthy volunteers, approximately 30 to 40 % of an oral dose of norfloxacin is absorbed. Absorption is rapid following single doses of 200 mg and 400 mg. At the respective doses, mean peak serum and plasma concentrations of 0.8 and 1.5 µg/mL are attained approximately 1 hour after dosing. The presence of food may decrease absorption. The effective half-life of norfloxacin in serum and plasma is 3 to 4 hours. Steady-state concentrations of norfloxacin will be attained within 2 days of dosing.

The absorbed norfloxacin is eliminated mainly through renal excretion. Renal excretion occurs by both glomerular filtration and tubular secretion as evidenced by the high rate of renal clearance (approximately 275 mL/min). Within 24 hours of drug administration, 26 to 32% of the administered dose is recovered in the urine as norfloxacin with an additional 5 to 8% being recovered in the urine as six metabolites of considerably less antimicrobial potency. However, urinary recovery may occasionally be very low. Only a small percentage (less than 1%) of the dose is recovered thereafter.

Two to three hours after a single 400 mg dose, urinary concentrations of 200 µg/mL or more are attained in the urine. In healthy volunteers, mean urinary concentrations of norfloxacin remain above 30 µg/mL for approximately 12 hours following a 400 mg dose. The urinary pH may affect the solubility of norfloxacin. Norfloxacin is least soluble at urinary pH of 7.5 with solubility increasing at pHs above and below this value. The disposition of norfloxacin in patients with creatinine clearance rates greater than 30 mL/min/1.73 m² is similar to that in healthy volunteers. In patients with creatinine clearance rates equal to or less than 30 mL/min/1.73 m², the renal elimination of norfloxacin decreases so that the effective serum half-life is 8.6 to 11.5 hours. In these patients, alteration of dosage is necessary (see **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**). Drug absorption appears unaffected by decreasing renal function.

In healthy elderly volunteers (65 to 75 years of age with normal renal function for their age), norfloxacin is eliminated more slowly because of their slightly decreased renal function. Drug absorption appears unaffected. The effective half-life of norfloxacin in these elderly subjects is 4 hours.

Faecal recovery accounts for another 30% of the administered dose. This represents the unabsorbed drug along with a small contribution through biliary excretion. After a single 400 mg dose of norfloxacin, mean antimicrobial activities equivalent to norfloxacin 278, 773 and 82 µg/g of faeces were obtained at 12, 24 and 48 hours, respectively.

The serum protein binding of norfloxacin is between 10 and 15%.

Animal Pharmacology

Norfloxacin and related drugs have been shown to cause arthropathy in immature animals of most species tested (see **PRECAUTION**).

Crystalluria has occurred in laboratory animals tested with norfloxacin. In dogs, needle shaped drug crystals were seen in the urine at doses of 50 mg/kg/day. In rats, crystals were reported following doses of 200 mg/kg/day. Embryo lethality and slight maternotoxicity (vomiting and anorexia) were observed in cynomolgus monkeys at doses of 150 mg/kg/day or higher.

Ocular toxicity, seen with some related drugs, was not observed in any norfloxacin treated animals.

MICROBIOLOGY

Norfloxacin has *in vitro* activity against a broad spectrum of gram-negative and some gram-positive aerobic bacteria. Norfloxacin inhibits bacterial deoxyribonucleic acid synthesis and is bactericidal. At the molecular level, three specific events are attributed to norfloxacin in *Escherichia coli* cells: inhibition of the ATP dependent DNA supercoiling reaction catalysed by DNA gyrase; inhibition of the relaxation of supercoiled DNA; promotion of double stranded DNA breakage.

Resistance to norfloxacin due to spontaneous mutation *in vitro* is a rare occurrence (range 10^{-9} to 10^{-12} cells). Resistance of the organism has developed during therapy with norfloxacin in less than 1% of patients treated. Organisms in which development of resistance is greatest are the following: *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Acinetobacter* sp., Enterococci. For this reason, when there is a lack of satisfactory clinical response, culture and susceptibility testing should be repeated.

Norfloxacin is active *in vitro* against the following organisms.

Bacteria Found in Urinary Tract Infections

Aerobic bacteria. gram-positive bacteria including *Streptococcus faecalis* (*Enterococcus*), *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Staph. epidermidis*, *Staph. saprophyticus*. Gram-negative bacteria including *Citrobacter diversus*, *C. freundii*, *Enterobacter cloacae*, *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella oxytoca*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Proteus mirabilis*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

Bacteria Found in Gastrointestinal Infections

Shigella, *E. coli*, *Salmonella typhi*.

In addition, norfloxacin is active against *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*.

Norfloxacin is not generally active against obligate anaerobes.

Nalidixic acid resistant organisms are generally susceptible to norfloxacin *in vitro*; however, these organisms may have higher minimum inhibitory concentrations (MIC) to norfloxacin than nalidixic acid susceptible strains. There is generally no cross resistance between norfloxacin and other classes of antibacterial agents. Therefore, norfloxacin often demonstrates activity against indicated organisms resistant to the aminoglycosides (including gentamicin) penicillins, cephalosporins, tetracyclines, macrolides and sulfonamides, including combinations of sulfamethoxazole and trimethoprim. Antagonism has been demonstrated *in vitro* between norfloxacin and nitrofurantoin.

Susceptibility Tests

Quantitative methods that require measurement of zone diameters give precise estimates of bacterial susceptibility. One such procedure has been recommended for use with discs to test susceptibility to norfloxacin.

Reports from the laboratory giving results of the standard single disc susceptibility test with a norfloxacin 10 µg disc should be interpreted according to the following criteria. Susceptible organisms produce zone diameters of 13 mm or greater, indicating that the test organism is likely to respond to therapy.

Resistant organisms produce zone diameters of 12 mm or less, indicating that other therapy should be selected.

A bacterial isolate may be considered susceptible if the MIC value for norfloxacin is equal to less than 16 µg/mL. Organisms are considered resistant if the MIC is equal to or greater than 32 µg/mL. The standardised quality control procedure requires use of control organisms. The norfloxacin 10 µg disc should give the zone diameters listed in Table 1 for the quality control strains. Please refer to Table 1.

Table 1

Organism	ATCC	Zone Size Range (mm)
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	25922	28 – 35
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	27853	22 – 29
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	25923	17 – 28

Dilution susceptibility tests should give MICs between the ranges listed in Table 2 for the quality control strains. Please refer to Table 2.

Table 2

Organism	ATCC	MIC (µg/mL)
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	25922	0.03 – 0.125
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	29213	0.5 – 2.0
<i>Streptococcus faecalis</i>	29212	2.0 – 8.0
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	27853	1.0 – 4.0

Based on urinary concentrations of norfloxacin achieved in humans, breakpoint criteria have been established as listed in Table 3. Please refer to Table 3.

Table 3

Organism	Zone Diameter (mm)	Recommended MIC Breakpoint ($\mu\text{g/mL}$)
Susceptible	≥ 13	≤ 16
Resistant	≤ 12	≥ 32

Norfloxacin susceptibility test results should not be used to predict susceptibility to other less potent quinolone antibacterial agents such as nalidixic acid.

INDICATIONS

Treatment of adults with complicated and uncomplicated urinary tract infections that are caused by susceptible strains of microorganisms.

Treatment of adults with gastrointestinal infections, in particular shigellosis and traveller's diarrhoea.

Note: Specimens for culture and susceptibility testing should be obtained prior to and during treatment if clinical response warrants.

Suppression, in adults, of chronic, recurrent urinary tract infection.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Hypersensitivity to any component of this product or any chemically related quinolone antibacterials.

Norfloxacin should not be used in children (paediatric patients, adolescents under the age of 18 years) or pregnant women.

WARNINGS

The oral administration of single doses of norfloxacin 100 mg/kg caused lameness in immature dogs. Histological examination of the weight bearing joints of these dogs revealed permanent lesions of the cartilage. Related drugs (e.g. nalidixic acid and cinoxacin) also produced erosions of the cartilage in weight bearing joints and other signs of arthropathy in immature animals of various species.

PRECAUTIONS

Needle shaped crystals were found in the urine of some volunteers who received either placebo, norfloxacin 800 mg or norfloxacin 1600 mg (at or twice the recommended daily dose, respectively) while participating in a double blind, crossover study comparing single doses of norfloxacin with placebo. While crystalluria is not expected to occur under usual conditions with a dosage regimen of 400 mg twice daily, as a precaution, the daily recommended dosage should not be exceeded and the patient should drink sufficient fluids to ensure a proper state of hydration and adequate urinary output.

Alteration in dosage regimen is necessary for patients with impaired renal function (see **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**).

Antibiotic associated pseudomembranous colitis has been reported with many antibiotics including norfloxacin. A toxin produced with *Clostridium difficile* appears to be the primary cause. The severity of the colitis may range from mild to life threatening. It is important to consider this diagnosis in patients who develop diarrhoea or colitis in association with this antibiotic use (this may occur up to several weeks after cessation of antibiotic therapy). Mild cases usually respond to drug discontinuation alone. However, in moderate to severe cases appropriate therapy with a suitable oral antibacterial agent effective against

Cl. difficile should be considered. Fluids, electrolytes and protein replacement should be provided when indicated. Drugs which delay peristalsis, e.g. opiates and diphenoxylate with atropine (Lomotil), may prolong and/or worsen the condition and should not be used.

The effects of norfloxacin on brain function or on the electrical activity of the brain have not been tested. Convulsions have been reported rarely in patients receiving norfloxacin. As with other organic acids, norfloxacin should be used with caution in individuals with a history of convulsions or known factors that predispose to seizures.

Photosensitivity reactions have been observed in patients who are exposed to excessive sunlight while receiving some members of this drug class. Excessive sunlight should be avoided. Therapy should be discontinued if photosensitivity occurs.

Achilles and other tendon ruptures that require surgical repair or resulted in prolonged disability have been reported with norfloxacin and other quinolones. Norfloxacin should be discontinued if the patient experiences pain, inflammation or rupture of a tendon and patients are advised to seek appropriate medical management.

Rarely, haemolytic reactions have been reported in patients with latent or actual defects in glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase activity who take quinolone antibacterial agents, including norfloxacin (see **ADVERSE EFFECTS**).

Quinolones, including norfloxacin, may exacerbate the signs of myasthenia gravis and lead to life-threatening weakness of the respiratory muscles. Caution should be exercised when using quinolones, including norfloxacin, in patients with myasthenia gravis (see **ADVERSE EFFECTS**).

Some quinolones have been associated with prolongation of the QT interval on the electrocardiogram and infrequent cases of arrhythmias. During post-marketing surveillance, extremely rare cases of torsades de pointes, have been reported in patients taking norfloxacin. These reports generally involve patients who had other concurrent medical conditions and the relationship to norfloxacin has not yet been established. Among drugs known to cause prolongation of the QT interval, the risk of arrhythmias may be reduced by avoiding use in the presence of hypokalaemia, significant bradycardia, or concurrent treatment with class Ia or class III antiarrhythmic agents. Quinolones should also be used with caution in patients using cisapride, erythromycin, antipsychotics, tricyclic antidepressants or have any personal or family history of QTc prolongation.

Impaired Renal Function

Norfloxacin is suitable for the treatment of patients with renal impairment; however, since norfloxacin is primarily excreted by the kidney, urinary levels may be significantly compromised by severe renal dysfunction (see **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**).

Use in Pregnancy (Category B3¹)

Norfloxacin has been shown to produce embryonic loss in cynomolgus monkeys when given in doses of 150 mg/kg/day with peak plasma levels that are two to three times those obtained in humans. There has been no evidence of a teratogenic effect in any of the animal species tested (rat, rabbit, mouse, monkey) at 100 to 800 mg/kg/day. There were no adequate and well controlled studies in pregnant women. Since norfloxacin, like other drugs in this class, causes arthropathy in immature animals, it should not be used in pregnant women (see **WARNINGS**).

Use in Lactation

It is not known whether norfloxacin is excreted in human milk.

When a 200 mg dose of norfloxacin was administered to breast-feeding mothers, norfloxacin was not detected in human milk. However, because the dose studied was low, because other drugs in this class are secreted in human milk, and because of the potential for serious adverse reactions from norfloxacin in breast-fed infants, a decision should be made to discontinue breast-feeding or to discontinue the drug at

¹ Category B3

Drugs which have been taken by only a limited number of pregnant women and women of childbearing age, without an increase in the frequency of malformation or other direct or indirect harmful effects on the human fetus having been observed. Studies in animals have shown evidence of an increased occurrence of fetal damage, the significance of which is considered uncertain in humans.

least 24 to 48 hours before restarting breast-feeding, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother.

Use in Children

As with other quinolones, norfloxacin has been shown to cause arthropathy in immature animals. The safety of norfloxacin in children has not been adequately explored and therefore norfloxacin is not to be used in pre-pubertal children or growing adolescents (see **WARNINGS**).

Effect on Ability to Drive and Operate Machinery

Norfloxacin may cause dizziness or light-headedness; therefore, patients should know how they react to norfloxacin before they operate a vehicle or machinery or engage in activities requiring mental alertness and co-ordination.

Information for Patients

Patients should be advised to take norfloxacin 1 hour before or 2 hours after a meal. Patients should also be advised to drink fluids liberally and not to take antacids concomitantly or within 2 hours after dosing.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

Information is not available at present on the carcinogenic potential of norfloxacin.

Norfloxacin was tested for mutagenic activity in a number of *in vivo* and *in vitro* tests. Norfloxacin had no mutagenic effect in the dominant lethal test in mice and did not cause chromosomal aberrations in hamsters or rats at 500 to 1000 mg/kg/day. Norfloxacin had no mutagenic activity *in vitro* in the Ames microbial mutagen test and V-79 mammalian cell assay. Although norfloxacin was weakly positive in the Rec-assay for DNA repair, all other mutagenic assays were negative including a more sensitive test (V-79).

Norfloxacin did not adversely affect the fertility of male and female mice at oral doses up to 500 mg/kg/day.

INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER MEDICINES

Diminished urinary excretion of norfloxacin has been reported during the concomitant administration of probenecid and norfloxacin.

The concomitant use of nitrofurantoin is not recommended since nitrofurantoin may antagonise the antibacterial effect of norfloxacin in the urinary tract.

Quinolones, including norfloxacin, have been shown *in vitro* to inhibit CYP1A2. Concomitant use with drugs metabolised by CYP1A2 (e.g. caffeine, clozapine, ropinirole, tacrine, theophylline, tizanidine) may result in increased substrate drug concentrations when given in usual doses. Patients taking any of these drugs concomitantly with norfloxacin should be carefully monitored.

Elevated plasma levels of theophylline have been reported with concomitant quinolone use. There have been rare reports of theophylline related side effects in patients on concomitant therapy with norfloxacin and theophylline. Therefore, monitoring of theophylline plasma levels should be considered and dosage of theophylline adjusted as required.

Elevated serum levels of cyclosporin have been reported with concomitant use with norfloxacin. Therefore, cyclosporin serum levels should be monitored and appropriate cyclosporin dosage adjustments made when these drugs are used concomitantly.

Quinolones, including norfloxacin, may enhance the effects of the oral anticoagulant warfarin, or its derivatives and phenindione or similar agents. When these products are administered concomitantly, prothrombin time or other suitable coagulation tests should be closely monitored.

The concomitant administration of quinolones including norfloxacin with glibenclamide (a sulfonylurea agent) has, on rare occasions, resulted in severe hypoglycaemia. Therefore, monitoring of blood glucose is recommended when these agents are co-administered.

Multivitamins, products containing iron or zinc, antacids or sucralfate should not be administered concomitantly with, or within two hours, of the administration of norfloxacin because they may interfere with absorption, resulting in lower serum and urine levels of norfloxacin.

Videx (didanosine) chewable/buffered tablets or the paediatric powder for oral solution should not be administered concomitantly with, or within two hours of, the administration of norfloxacin, because these products may interfere with absorption resulting in lower serum and urine levels of norfloxacin.

Some quinolones, including norfloxacin, have also been shown to interfere with the metabolism of caffeine. This may lead to reduced clearance of caffeine and a prolongation of its plasma half-life that may lead to accumulation of caffeine in plasma when products containing caffeine are consumed while taking norfloxacin.

The concomitant administration of a Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug (NSAID) with a quinolone, including norfloxacin, may increase the risk of CNS stimulation and convulsive seizures. Therefore, norfloxacin should be used with caution in individuals receiving NSAIDs concomitantly.

Animal data have shown that quinolones in combination with fenbufen can lead to convulsions. Therefore, concomitant administration of quinolones and fenbufen should be avoided.

ADVERSE EFFECTS

In clinical trials, norfloxacin was generally well tolerated.

The incidence of subjects reporting drug related adverse experiences in clinical trials involving 1127 subjects was 3.4%. However, the overall incidence was 10.7% and the figures below were calculated without reference to drug relationship. Most adverse reactions occur within the first few days of therapy.

The most common adverse experiences (1 to 3%) were either gastrointestinal or neurological: nausea 2.8%, headache 2.7% and dizziness 1.8%.

Additional reactions (0.3 to 1%) were: fatigue, rash, abdominal pain, dyspepsia, somnolence, depression, insomnia, constipation, flatulence and heartburn.

Less frequent reactions included: dry mouth, diarrhoea, fever, vomiting, erythema, euphoria, anxiety, irritability, hallucinations, altered taste, vaginal swelling and tendinitis.

Visual disturbances have been reported with drugs in this class.

Abnormal laboratory values observed in these 1127 subjects in clinical trials were eosinophilia 1.8%, elevation of ALT and AST 1.8%, increased alkaline phosphatase 1.4%, and decreased white blood cell or neutrophil count 1.2%. Those occurring less frequently included increased serum urea, serum creatinine and lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) and decreased haematocrit.

Post-Marketing

The following additional adverse effects have been reported since the drug was marketed:

Hypersensitivity Reactions

These include anaphylaxis, angioedema, dyspnoea, vasculitis, urticaria, arthritis, myalgia, arthralgia, interstitial nephritis.

Skin

Photosensitivity, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis, exfoliative dermatitis, erythema multiforme, pruritus.

Central Nervous System

Confusion, paraesthesia, polyneuropathy including Guillain-Barré syndrome, hypoesthesia, psychic disturbances including psychotic reactions, convulsions, tremors and myoclonus.

Liver, Gastrointestinal

Pseudomembranous colitis, pancreatitis (rare), hepatitis, including jaundice and cholestatic jaundice, elevated liver function tests.

Musculoskeletal

Tendinitis, tendon rupture, exacerbation of myasthenia gravis, elevated creatinine kinase (CK).

Haematological

Agranulocytosis, thrombocytopenia, haemolytic anaemia, sometimes associated with glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency.

Genitourinary

Vaginal candidiasis.

Renal function

Renal failure

Special Senses

Dysgeusia. visual disturbances, hearing loss

Causal Relationship Unknown

A definite causal relationship could not be established with regard to the following adverse effects: conjunctivitis, eye pain/irritation and asthenia. On very rare occasions, prolonged QTc interval and ventricular arrhythmia (including torsades de pointes), hypertonia, ataxia, dysarthria, dysphasia, haemophthalmia, nystagmus, periorbital erythema, proteinuria and transient hearing loss have been reported.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION (see also PRECAUTIONS)

Norfloxacin tablets should be taken 1 hour before or 2 hours after a meal with a glass of water. Patients receiving norfloxacin should be well hydrated.

Multivitamins, other products containing iron or zinc, antacids containing magnesium and aluminium, sucralfate or Videx (didanosine) chewable/buffered tablets or the paediatric powder for oral solution, should not be taken within two hours of administration of norfloxacin (see **PRECAUTIONS**)

Urinary Tract Infection

Normal Renal Function

The recommended dosage of norfloxacin for the treatment of urinary tract infection is 400 mg twice daily for 7 to 10 days.

For uncomplicated lower urinary tract infections, the recommended dosage is 400 mg twice daily for 3 days. In one study of uncomplicated lower urinary tract infections, treatment for 7 days resulted in somewhat better eradication rates than treatment for 3 days.

For suppression in chronic, recurrent urinary tract infection, 400 mg twice daily may be administered for 4 to 12 weeks.

Maximum total daily dosage should not exceed 800 mg per day.

Impaired Renal Function

Norfloxacin may be used for the treatment of urinary tract infections in patients with renal insufficiency. In patients with a creatinine clearance rate of 30 mL/min/1.73 m² or less, the recommended dosage is one 400 mg tablet once daily for the duration given above. At this dosage, the urinary concentration exceeds the MICs for most urinary pathogens susceptible to norfloxacin, even when the creatinine clearance is

less than 10 mL/min/1.73 m². However, such patients should be observed carefully for adverse effects due to possible drug retention.

When only the serum creatinine level is available, the following formula (based on sex, weight and age of the patient) may be used to convert this value into creatinine clearance. The serum creatinine should represent a steady state of renal function. Please refer to Equation 1.

Equation 1 : Calculation of Creatinine Clearance (mL/min)

$$\text{Men :} \quad \frac{\text{Bodyweight (kg)} \times (140 - \text{age in years})}{72 \times \text{Serum Creatinine (mmol/L)}} \times 0.0885$$

Women : Multiplication of the result of the above equation by 0.85

Use in the Elderly

Elderly patients with a creatinine clearance of greater than 30 mL/min/1.73 m² should receive the dosages recommended under *Normal Renal Function*.

Elderly patients with a creatinine clearance of 30 mL/min/1.73 m² or less should receive 400 mg once daily as recommended under *Impaired Renal Function*.

Gastrointestinal Infection

(Shigellosis, traveller's diarrhoea.) The recommended dosage is 400 mg twice daily for 5 days.

OVERDOSAGE

The acute oral LD₅₀ values in male and female mice and male and female rats were greater than 4 g/kg.

In the event of acute overdosage, absorption may be decreased by giving active charcoal. The patient should be observed carefully and given symptomatic and supportive treatment. Adequate hydration must be maintained.

Contact the Poison Information Centre on 13 11 26 (Australia) for advice on the management of overdosage.

PRESENTATION AND STORAGE CONDITIONS

Available in bottle of 14 tablets.

GenRx Norfloxacin tablets are white, film-coated, convex, oval shaped scored tablet, embossed with "N | F" on one side and "> " on the other

AUST R 155546

GenRx Norfloxacin tablets are intended for oral administration. Each GenRx Norfloxacin tablet contains 400 mg of norfloxacin and the following inactive ingredients: microcrystalline cellulose, croscarmellose sodium, magnesium stearate and Opadry AMB OY-B-28920.

Store below 30°C.

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POISONS SCHEDULE

S4: Prescription Only Medicine

Date of TGA approval : 14 November 2008

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