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**Review Article** 

# A review on concept of Grivasandhigatavata and its Management WSR Cervical Spomdylosis

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Cervical spondylosis is caused by degenerative disc disease and usually produces intermittent neck pain in middle aged and elderly aged patients. This pain usually responds to activity modification, neck immobilization, isometric exercise, and medication. Cervical spondylosis is a common degenerative condition of the cervical spine that most likely is caused by age-related changes in the intervertebral discs. Clinically, several syndromes, both overlapping and distinct are seen: Neck and shoulder pain, suboccipital pain and headache, radicular symptoms, and cervical spondylosis may coexist. As disc degeneration occurs, mechanical stresses result in osteophytic bars which form along the ventral aspect of the spinal canal. Any disease related to locomotor system of the body can be considered in the umbrella of 'Vata Vyadhi'. SandhigataVata is mentioned under Vata Vyadhi. Acharya Charaka has mentioned that Nidana Sevana aggravates Vata Dosha and this Vata gets vitiated in Griva Asthi and Sandhi it leads to Griva-SandhiGataVata.

Keywords: Griva-SandhigataVata, Cervical Spondylosis, management, Nidana.

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## INTRODUCTION

Ayurveda is a life science that provides a healthy and long life of humans not only with curative, but also preventative principles. The word ' Ayus ' is the combination of the soul and the sense organs of the body. Human beings can be seen in this universe as a small unit. They remain healthy and happy when one is in proper harmony with the rest of the world; when there is disturbance, it could lead to illnesses. The 21st century, every person is running after life's goal. Hence, does not have time to think and act for the healthy life and dose not able to follow the proper Dinacharya (daily routine), Ritucharya (Seasonal regimens) dietetic rules and regulations. Because of this artificial living life-style, person has gotten so many disorders for himself. Therefore we should keep our life style in harmony with the universe. Cervical spondylosis is caused by degenerative disc disease and usually produces intermittent neck pain in middle aged and elderly aged patients. This pain usually responds to activity modification, neck immobilization, isometric exercise, and medication. Cervical spondylosis is a common degenerative condition of the cervical spine that most likely is caused by age-related changes in the intervertebral discs. Clinically, several syndromes, both overlapping and distinct are seen: Neck and shoulder pain, suboccipital pain and headache, radicular symptoms, and cervical spondylosis may coexist. The explanation which sounds like cervical spondylosis is not accessible specifically separate disease entity in any of the major Ayurvedic texts. Any disease related to locomotor system of the body can be considered in the umbrella of 'Vata Vyadhi'. Cervical Spondylosis is a disease related with degeneration of bones forming Griva sandhi, hence according to Ayurveda it can be discuss under Vata vyadhi. Vitiated vata dosha gets increase in Griva sandhi and produce symptoms of Sandhigata vata. In the Universe many disease are there, So that it's not possible to name it all. According to Vyaadhi namakaran siddhanta, taking into account the Rog Prakriti, Adhishthana and Samutthana,

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Cervical Spondylosis can be compared to the *Griva-Sandhigata Vata* in *Ayurveda*<sup>3,4,5</sup>. So, on the basis of pathological cascade and clinical manifestations, Cervical Spondylosis can be termed as *Griva Sandhigata Vata*. *Sandhigata Vata* is one among *Vatik* disorder; in the process of development vitiated *Vata Dosha* attacks various joints of the body leading to clinical manifestation like *Sandhisula*, *Shopha*, painful joint movement and derangement of the joints.

According to WHO (world health organization) - Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. This condition is also found in our *classical* text in *Susruta Sutra*  $15/41^3$ .

The supreme theory with unerring factors based on *Tridosha* and *Panchabhautika*<sup>4</sup> principles encompassing every angle of a person's health, ailments and treatments which are highly comprehensive. Imbalance of *Dosha* is termed as *Roga*. Among *Tridosha*, *Vata* is responsible for almost all disease.

Acharya Charak has described Sandhigata Vata as a Sandhigata Anila in Vata Vyadhi Chikitsa. The symptomatology of Sandhi Gata Vata as described in Ayurvedic classics is as follows<sup>5</sup>- Shoola (pain), Prasarana Aachunchan Vedana (Painfull Flexion and Extension), Shotha (Swelling in cervical region), Vatapurnadriti Sparsha (feeling of air filled in joints), Hanti Sandhigatah (loss of function).

Cervical Spondylosis is a degenerative joint disorder with the symptoms of pain, restricted painful movements of the neck joint and joint instability. It is a slow progressive disorder and occurs usually after the age of 40 years (especially in middle age within 30 to 40 years).

Increasing social, psychological and professional pressure at home and offices coupled with excessive computer use, over exertion, jerking movements during travelling and sports create undue pressure and repeated injuries to the spinal cord resulting in Cervical Spondylosis. With advancing age, more and more subjects present with evidences of spondylotic changes.

Evidence of spondylotic change is frequently found in many asymptomatic adults, with 25% of adults under the age of 40, 50% of adults over the age of 40, and 85% of adults over the age of 60 showing some evidence of disc degeneration. Another study of asymptomatic adults showed significant degenerative changes at 1 or more levels in 70% of women and 95% of men at age 65 and 60 respectively. The most common evidence of degeneration is found at C5-6 followed by C6-7 and C4-5". The three common initial symptom which may occur alone or in combination are dysesthesia in hand, weakness and clumsiness of hand and weakness in lower limbs. In addition there may be other related symptoms which include headache, pain in neck and symptom of vertebra-basilar insufficiency. All these may occur singly or in any combination.

Treatment of *Vata vayadhi* is *krichcha sadhya* due to *Yogavahi* nature of *Vata dosha*.

Here I tried to highlight how can body physiological entities turn into pathological states and responsible for disease and how can bring this abnormal entities back to its normal state by applying our traditional Ayurved therapy.

## Definition of Vata vyadhi:

❖ Vata itself is a vyadhi (disease) (by madhav nidana 22), by telling this, we would include the whole universe in the catagary of 'having disease' or

'diseased', and the whole world would be diseased at any given point of time but practically it is not. Vata is present in everyone but it does not produce a disease in everyone and everyone in the world is not diseased. Vata is morbid (disease causing) only when it is diseased.

\* 'The disease which is caused by vata is called vata vyadhi (by M. N. 22). By telling this, we should be including the vata subtypes of all the saamanya Vyadhis (general disease) under this category i.e. Vataja jwara (fever due to vitiation of vata), vataja atisara, vataja arsha etc should be considered as vata vyadhis. But these and all other diseases are not only caused by vitiated vata but are also caused by vitiatedpitta and kapha.

## Nidana (Etiological factors):

All the etiological factors can be classified into following groups:

Samanya Nidana (General etiology): It considers two types of general etiology having Ahara janya and Vihara janya .In Ahara janya Nidana due to intake of similar qualities like Ruksa, Laghu, Shita, Vistambhi dravyas. Kasaya Rasa, Katu Rasa, Tikta Rasa predominant Dravyas. Less intake of food- (Alpasana), Langhana, Visamashana are responsible for Dhatu Kshaya and ultimately Vata Prokopa occurs. In Vihara janya Nidana this factor related to habit and regimen coming under Atiyoga and Mithyayoga which are contradictory to Swstha Vritta. Vega Dharana, Ativyayam, Aticheshta (more exposure in professional work) Ratri Jagarana, Ativyavaya etc. and improper purification, all these factors increase the Ruksha guna.

**Manasik Nidana:-** *Kama, Krodha, Bhaya, Shoka, Chinta* and other factors predominant with *Rajaguna* vitiate *Vata Dosha*.

**Agantuja Nidana:-** External causative factors like Abhighata, Marmaghata cause Vata Prokopa.

**Kalajanya Nidana:-** Vata Dosha also provocates according to seasonal variety e.g. Varsha Ritu and routine variation i.e. Last part of night and at the end of digestion.

Anya Nidana:- This group include Atydhika Raktasrava, Dhatu Kshaya due to Chirakari Vyadhi, Marga Avarodha by other causative factor are accepted as Nidana for Vata Prokopa.

**Vishishta Nidana (Specific etiology):** If patients having long duration of vyadhi with some systemic involvment like Osteoarthritis etc.

## Samprapti (Pathogenesis):

Vitiation of few basic component of body is required for the manifestations of any disease, which are as follows:

- 1. Dosha
- 2. Dushya
- 3. Srotasa
- 4. Agni and Ama

## 1. Dosha:

In pathogenesis of Vata vyadhi especially vata dosha is vitiated.

## 2. Dushya:

In pathogenesis of Vata vyadhi all Dhatu are involved such as Rasa, Rakta, Mansa, Meda, Asthi, Majja and Shukra.

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#### 3. Srotasa:

Here we can say that Vata vaha srotasa are involved.

#### 4. Agni:

In the pathogenesis of agni prayaha Vishamagni are present.

Purva Rupa:- Prodromal feature appears as Avyakta before appearance of full phase clinical symptoms and sign. Purva Rupa is manifested is due to Dosha Dushya Samurchhana. It takes place at fourth stage (Sthansamshraya) of Kriyakala. In this context of Sandhigatavata there is no specific premonitory symptom. Acharya Charak has quoted that Avyakta Lakshanas of Vatavyadhi are to be taken as its Purvarupa. Commentator Vijayarakshita explains the term Avyakta as the symptoms which are not manifested clearly. Hence, mild of occasional Sandhi Shoola or Shotha prior to the manifestation of disease Sandhigatavata may be taken as Purvarupa.

## Rupa: (आत्मरूपंतुतह्यक्तमपायोलघुतापुनः |(Ch.Ch.28/20))

It is the stage of complete clinical presentation of a disease and it appears in *Vyaktavastha* of *Kriyakala*. In this phase *Vyadhi* easily diagnosed. The clinical features of *Sandhigata Vata* according to different *Acharyas* mentioned below

Acharya Charak has mentioned Sotha, Vata purnadruti sparsha, Shotha and Prasarana Aakunchanayo pravritischa savedana.

According to Acharya Sushruta, has quoted as Hantisandhigatah

Achraya Chakrapani has explained that

As said earlier, *Samprapti* of *Sandhigata Vata* follows either of three ways according to the *Nidana* of *Vata Prakopa*.

- (1) Dhatukshyajanya
- (2) Avaranjanya
- (3) Svanidana Sevanajanya.

As Sandhigatavata is a degenerative disease and mainly occurs in the old age. In Vatik disorders Acharya Charak mentions that the Khavaigunya is mainly due to Empty Strotas. (Ch. Chi. 28/18) The Vata Dosha is aggravated due to different factors and Vata flows out of its Ashaya to circulate in the entire body and its constituents. During circulation it gets localized in the roots of Majjavaha Srotas i.e. Sandhi. In the Asthi and Majjavaha Srotas, the Khavaigunya may already present. Because unless there is Khavaigunya of Srotas, the Dosha will not take Ashraya.

The chief qualities of *Vata Dosha* are *Khara*, *Ruksha*, *Vishada*, and *Laghu Sandhi* gives *Ashraya* to *Shleshak Kapha* which has *Guru*, *Snigdha* and *Mridu* qualities. When aggravated *Vatadosha* gets localized in *Sandhi*, it destroys its qualities leading to loss of its main function *Dharana*. When aggravated *Vata* is localized into a single joint, the disease will be reflected in only one joint but if *Vata* is present in many joints, the disease may be presented by multiple joint involvement.

On the other hand, the diet regimen which is mainly dominated by *Vatika* qualities say *Vata Vardhaka Ahara Vihara* can be considered as one of the predisposing factor in *Sandhigatavata*. Due to old age i.e. *Kalaja Nidana*, it causes *Ashtivaha Srotodusti* and *Khavaigunya in Sandhi. Vata Vardhaka Ahara Vihara* leads to *Vatasanchaya* and *Agni Vaishamya*. Further *Agni Vaishamya* causes *Anuloma* 

Dhatukshya which ultimately results in Vataprakopa and vice-versa. Because of Anuloma Dhatukshya the vitiated Vata moves in the body and settles down in joints. The Vata Dosha settles down primarily in joint because there is inter relationship between the Dosha and Dushya which is called "Ashraya-Ashrayi Bhava" Sambandha. Vata Dosha is mobile in nature, a particular seat can't be attributed to it and therefore sites which are more mobile can be considered as a site of Vyana vayu.

If we consider the seat of *Vayu* as *Sandhi* then obviously *Vyana Vayu* may have close relation with *Shleshaka Kapha* because *Sandhi* is the *Upadhatu* of *Meda* and *Meda* is *Ashraya* of *Kapha Dosha* thus the relation between them.

Whenever the *Vyana Vayu* gets vitiated, simultaneously some *Sthana Vikriti* or *Khavaigunya* at *Sandhi* may take place. Because of this *Khavaigunya* at joints the vitiated *Vyanavayu* settles down and causes *Srotodushti* results in *Sandhigatavata* (*Purayitva Anilobali*).

Avaranjanya Sandhigata Vata: If Kapha, Medavardhak Nidana Sevana is present, it leads Medasagni Mandya. Due to Medas Agnimandya, Amamedavriddhi occurs. Meda is Poshya Dhatu of its later Dhatus i.e. Asthi and Majja which are Poshak Dhatus for Meda. If Amamedavriddhi takes place then obviously its Poshak Dhatus Kshya take place. That means Ashtidhatu and Majjudhatu Kshya occurs. Now at the same time, due to Amameda Vriddhi, Medasavarit Vata occurs. This Avarana leads Vataprakopa.

#### **Chikitsa**

Chikitsa is mentioned as "Vighatana of Samprapti".

Sandhigatavata is a Vatika disease, mainly occurs due to Dhatukshya or Avarana, so general treatment of Vatavyadhi can be adopted, keeping an eye on its etiology, common treatment like Snehana, Svedana, Mridu Samshodhana, Basti and Vatahara Aushadha, Ahara and Vihara may also be applicable in Sandhigatavata. As a specific line of treatment, Acharya Sushruta (Su. Chi. 4/8) and Acharya Vagbhatta (A.S.Chi.23/13, A.H. Chi. 21/19 & 22) have described Snehana, Upanaha, Agnikarma, Bandhana, Mardana and Svedana for the treatment of Sandhigatavata.

The elimination of the disease can be achieved by:

- Nidana Parivarjanam
- Samshaman
- > Samshodhana

Ayurveda gives more preference to "Nidana Parivarjanam" as the first line of treatment. Among the two lines of treatment, if the disease is in Madhyam stage, Samshaman is to be given otherwise Samshodhana.

### Shamana Aushadhi:

- Vati and Guggulu Rasna Guggulu, Trayodashanga Guggulu, Yogaraja Guggulu, Mahayogaraja Guggulu, Singhnaada Guggulu, Pathyadi Guggulu etc.
- Churna Ajamodadi Churna, Abhayadi Churna, Krishnadi Churna, Rasnadi Churna, Dashmuladi Churna etc.
- Kwatha, Kashaya Panchamula Kashaya, Rasnasaptak kwath, Maha Rasnadi Kashaya, Shefalikapatra Kashaya, Dashmula Kashaya, Erandadi Kashaya etc.
- Taila and Ghrita Bala Taila, Eranda Taila, Vajeegandhadi Taila, Maashadi Taila, Vishagarbha Tail, Prasarani Taila, Narayana Taila, Dashmool Tail,

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Shatavari Taila, Ashwagandha Ghrita, dashmoola Ghrita etc.

- **Arishta** Balarishta, Dashmularishta, Ashwagandharishta etc.
- Rasyoga Vatari Rasa, Vatagajankusha Rasa, Vrihatvatachintamani Rasa etc.
- Kalka and Lepa Maha Nimba Kalka, Rasona Kalka, Swalpa Rasona Pinda, Gunja Phala Lepa, Vatahara Pradeha etc.

*Samshodhana:* Before *panchakarma* two pre-purification therapies (*Purvakarma*) are indicated.

- 1) Snehana
- 2) Swedanam
- Snehana: Snehana besides being the chief Purvakarma
  procedure for Panchakarma therapy happens to be a
  one of the most significant Chikitsa. Snehana therapy is
  administered to a person in two different ways as
  follows.
- 1. External application in the form of Abhyanga
- 2. Internal application as Snehapana

Both external and internal *Snehana* are effective in *Sandhigatavata*. *Sneha Dravya* possesses *Drava, Sukshma, Sara, Snigdha, Manda, Mrudu, Guru*properties which are just opposite to those of *Vata Dosha*so it alleviates *Vata Dosha*. The *Vayu*, in its normal condition maintains a state of equilibrium between *Dosha* and *Dhatu*. Similarly it exercises considerable influence on the functioning of *Manas*. Hence this *Vayu* should be kept in state of equilibrium for the individual to be healthy and happy.

Snehana helps in the promotion and regulation of the proper functioning of *Vayu*. It is stated that by the regular use of *Abhyanga* all changes of old age could be prevented and cured, if already manifested. It replenished the diminished *Dhatu*, increases the *Prana* (Vitality) and strength of *Agni*.

**Swedana:** Swedana is the procedure which relieves Stiffness, Heaviness and Coldness of the body and produces Sweating.

The person who has been *Snigdha* by *Snehana Karma* and so accumulated *Doshas* in minute *Strotas, Swedana* liquifies those *Doshas*.

*Upanaha sweda: Upanaha* is one of the four types of *Sveda* explained by *Acharya Sushruta*. It plays dual role of *Purvakarma and Pradhanakarma*. *Upanaha* is bandaging. Here a paste of the roots of the *Vayu* subduing drugs is prepared and is then applied on the affected joints. The Paste should be hot and mixed with *Sneha*. After applying the paste, the joint is covered with leaves and then it is bandaged with cotton or leather. The duration of bandage is about 12 hours. The application of heat causes relaxation of the muscles and tendon, improves the blood supply.

- Virechana: The action of Virechana is not only limited to particular site, it has effects on thewhole body. In Vatavyadhi most of the authors mentioned Mridu Virechana. This will help in both Vata Anulomana as well assmooth excretion of Mala. The Snigdha Virechana clears obstruction in the Strotasand relieves Vata vitiation very quicklythus Snigdha Virechana of Mridu variety helps in controlling Shula.
- Agni karma: Agnikarma on the affected joints relieves pain. To perform Agnikarma on Sandhi, Ksuadra, Guda

"Sneha are to be used. Acharya Kashyapa has contraindicated Agnikarma on Shira, Sandhi and Asthi.

Commentator *Dalhana* has elaborated the fact that there is no need to perform *Agnikarma* on *Shira, Asthi* and *Sandhi* in case of diseases affecting them. To explain this thing he has quoted the reference of *Bhadrasaunaka* that by performing *Agnikarma* on *Mamsa,* diseases located in *Shira, Snayu* and *Asthi* get alleviated. It is stated that diseases cured with *Agnikarma* will never relapse and that cured with *Ksharakarma* or *Shastrakarma* may recure.

- Bandhana: Bandha is bandaging tightly leaves of Vatashamaka drugs on affected Sandhi. This bandaging does not leave any scope for Vata Dosha to inflate the Sandhi. In Sandhigatavata, Sotha appears like a bag inflated with air. Bandhana causes abatement in this Shotha.
- Unmardana: This is the type of massage in which pressure is applied on diseased Sandhi. It relieves Sotha and enhances blood circulation.
- Basti: Basti is mainly indicated in Vata predominant diseases. The two types of abnormalities of Vata both Dhatukshaya and Avarana can be treated by Basti Karma. Direct application of this kind of treatment to Pakvashaya helps not only in regulating and coordinating Vata Dosha in its site but also controls the other Dosha involved in the pathogenesis of the disease. Hence it is considered as the most suitable treatment for Vata Dosha predominant diseases and designated as Ardhachikitsa or Purna chikitsa.
- Rasayana: The use of Rasayana is very essential which also fits in to the framework of conventional approach with vitamins, minerals and hormones. Many drugs have been proven to possess smaller quantity of phytoestrogens that will fulfil the requirement of the hormone to prevent the further damage. These phytoestrogens are proven to have no side effect. As the whole drug is used Amalaki (Emblica officinalis), shigru, shatavari ( Asperagus racemoses) etc are the drugs which can take care of men and women in maintaining the general health thus providing quality of life. Though these plants have been proven for their vitamin and mineral content, as well as phytohormones, when the whole drug is used in the natural form the limitation and the adverse effects are counteracted or minimised. These plants are more than the chemical single constituent identified by the scientists. These medicines also have rejuvenating effect on all the tissues of the body.

**Certain Yogic Postures (Asanas) useful in cervical spondylosis:** Certain yogic postures are very much useful in conditions like cervical spondylosis to increase flexibility, muscle power, indurence and to relieve stiffness and restricted movement.

Few of them are mentioned here:

1-Dhanurasana 4 -Shavasana

2 -Shalabhasana3- Shashankasana

6- Bhujangasana

5- Supta vairasana

## Pathya – Apathya

Specific *Pathya* and *Apathya* of *Sandhigatavata* are not mentioned. But as being a *VataVyadhi*, we should adopt the same of general *Vatavyadhi*.

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The list of some Pathya-Apathya is as below.

## Pathya Ahara:

Varga	Dravya
Annavarga	Godhuma, Masha, Raktashali, Kulattha
Dugdhavarga	Gau-Aja Dugdha, Ghrita, Kilatam.
Phalavarga	Draksha, Badara, Amra, Madhuka
Jalavarga	Ushna Jala, Shritashita Jala
Madyavarga	Sura, Madira, Surasava, Amlakanjika
Mamsavarga	Kukkuta,Mayura,Chataka, Tittira,Nakra
Mutravarga	Go, Avika, Ashva, Hasti Mutra
Rasavarga	Madhura, Amla, Lavana
Shakavarga	Patola, Shigru, Rason, Jivanti
Snehavarga	Taila, Vasa, Majja, Ghrita

**Pathya Vihara**– Nirvatasthana, Atapa Sevana, Agnisantapa, Gurupravarana, Ushnodakasnana,Bhrahmacarya etc.

### Pathya Aushadha-

Rasna, Shunthi, Bilva, Gokshura, Agnimantha, Rasona, Palandu etc.

Brihana, Samshamana, Abhyanga, Mardana, Avagahana, Upanaha, Nasya, Vasti, Agni karma etc.

Other than this, factors which can able to control morbid *Vata*, which are not harmful for the body and which have the properties opposite to the properties of *Vata Dosha* are also considered as *Pathya*.

## Apathya Ahara:

Varga	Dravya
Annavarga	Yava, Kodrava, Shyamaka, Nirava, Chanaka, Kalaya
Dugdhavarga	Gadarbha Dugdha
Ikshuvarga	Madhu
Jalavarga	Nadi-samudra, Tadagasya jalam, Shita Jala, Dushita Jala
Madyavarga	Navamadya, Atimadyapana
Mamsavarga	Kapota, Paravat, Kulinga, Shuka, Shushka Mamsa
Mutravarga	Ajamutram
Phalavarga	Jambu, Kramuka, Kasheruka, Lavali, Parpataki Phala
Rasavarga	Katu, Tikta, Kasaya Rasa
Shakavarga	Kumuda, Kamalanala, Palakya, Udumbara

#### Apathya Vihara :

Chinta, Jagarana, Vega Sandharana, Shrama, Anashana, Vyavaya, Vyayama, Pravata, Chankramana, Kathin Shayya, Yana Gamana etc.

## **CONCLUSION**

Vata vyadhi is the vata dosha pradhana vyadhi. It is krichhasadhya vyadhi due to vitiation of vata dosha. It aggravated mainly in Sheeta condition (like varsha ritu etc). Vata vyadhi is mainly occure during age related condition (during higher age). Achrya charaka has described in vata vyadhi chikitsa, there are so many causes of vata vyadhi. On the basis of Rogaprakriti, Adhishthana, Samutthana as well as on the basis of their clinical manifestations, Griva-Sandhigata Vata is one of the Vatavyadhi commonly seen now-a-days and affecting a large group of the society. On the basis of their clinical manifestations it can be correlated with Cervical Spondylosis described in modern medical science. Vitiated Vata Dosha in Griva Pradesh is the main causative factor in Grivagata vata Roga especially Vyana Vayu and many times Shleshaka Kapha remains Anubandhi Dosha.

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