

A study of the expression of miR185, miR29a and their targets in IPF and lung cancer: a BALF study.

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OPINION

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Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and cancer: do they really look similar?

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- Common risk factors
- Poor response to treatment
- Poor prognosis
- Similar anatomical distribution

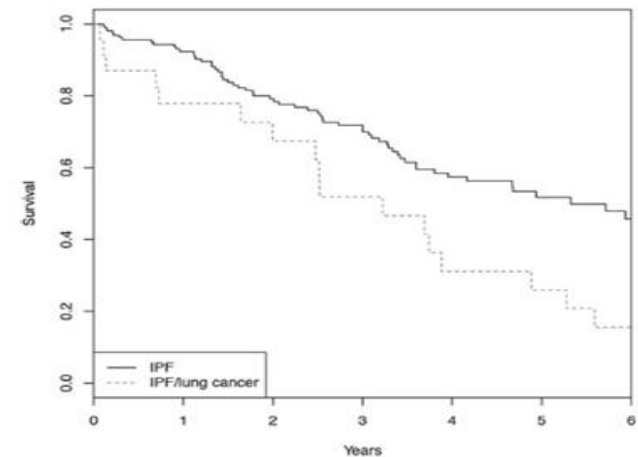
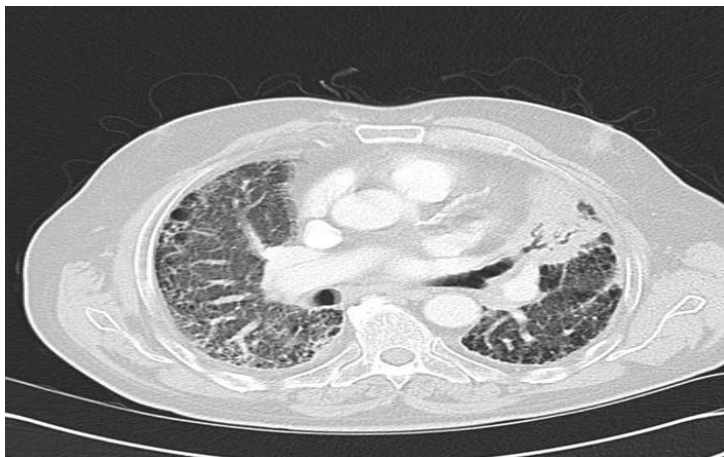


Figure 3 – Survival curve of patients with IPF with and without LC (time 0 is diagnosis of IPF for both groups). One-y and 3-y survival among the two groups were 78% and 52% in the study group and 92% and 70% in the control group, respectively, by Kaplan-Meier analysis. IPF = idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. See Figure 2 legend for expansion of other abbreviation.

[The Impact of Lung Cancer on Survival of Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis](#)

Tomassetti et al *Chest*, Volume 147, Issue 1, January 2015, Pages 157-164



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- Genetic changes (microsatellite instability, telomere shortening, telomerase impairment).
- Epigenetic changes (promoter hypermethylation/global hypomethylation).
- Abnormal expression of micro RNAs.
- Cellular and molecular aberrances:
 - ✓ Altered cell-cell communication
 - ✓ EMT
 - ✓ Delayed apoptosis
 - ✓ Pathways (Wnt/b-catenin, PI3K/AKT, JAK/STAT, Tyrosine kinases and others....)

Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and lung cancer: a clinical and pathogenesis update

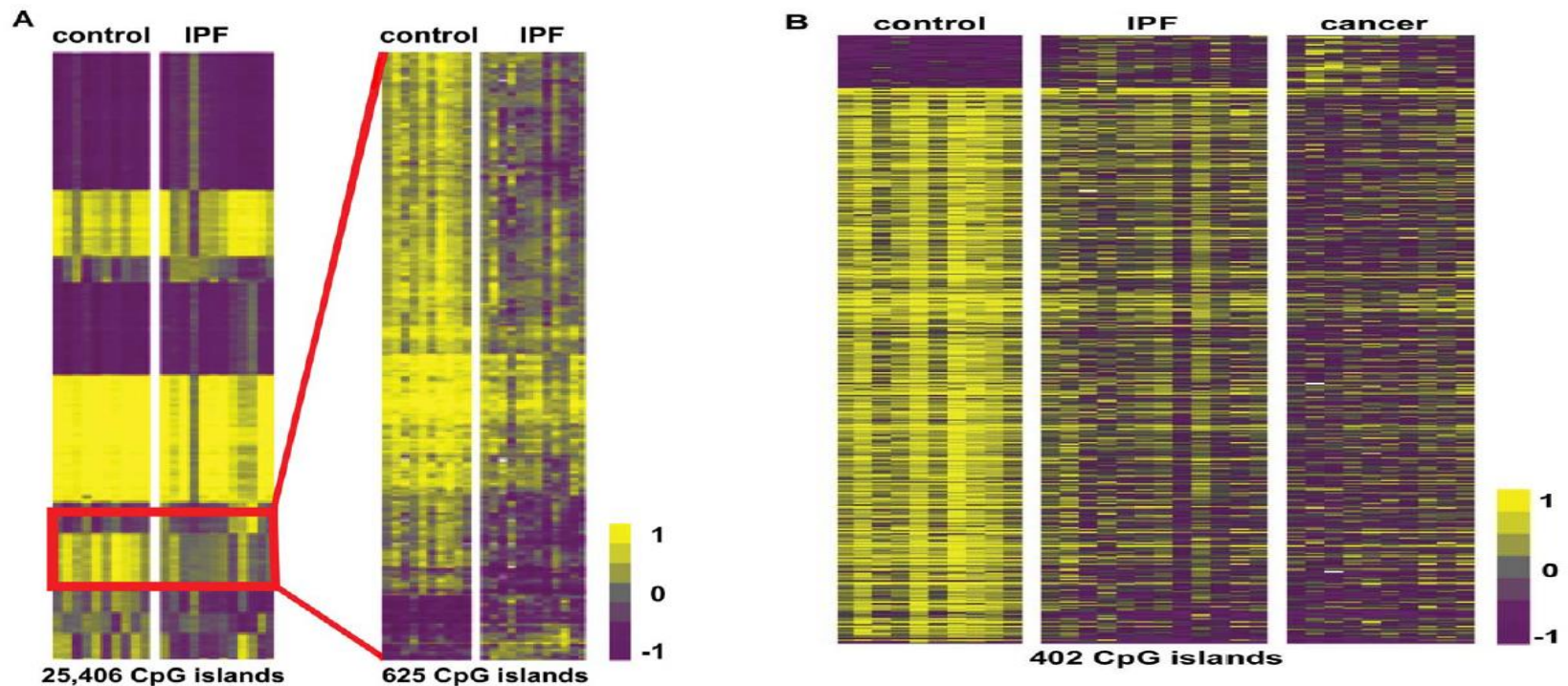
Katerina M. Antoniou^{a,b}, Sara Tomassetti^c, Eliza Tsitoura^b, and Carlo Vancheri^d

Epigenetic mechanism	IPF	Cancer	Effect
Noncoding RNAs			
miR-21	Upregulated [71,72]	Upregulated [43,60]	Oncomir and promising serum biomarker for IPF
			Targets tumor suppressors including <i>PTEN</i> . Amplifies the TGF- β signaling pathway by targeting <i>SMAD7</i>
Let-7d	Downregulated [74 [*]]	Upregulated or downregulated [73]	Can act as an oncogene and a tumor suppressor, in IPF its downregulation results in upregulation of <i>HMG2</i> and promotion of EMT and TGF- β pathways
miR-210	Upregulated [78 [*]]	Upregulated [79]	Hypoxia inducible, promotes fibroblast hyperproliferation
miR-17-92 family	Downregulated [88]	Upregulated [86,87]	Targets tumor suppressors including <i>PTEN</i> , <i>CDKN1A</i> /p21 ^{waf1/cip1} causing increased cell proliferation, inhibition of apoptosis, angiogenesis, EMT transformation
			Targets DNMT1
miR-29 family	Downregulated [81]	Downregulated [82,85 [*]]	Targets ECM proteins-like collagens targets DNMT3A/B leading to accumulation of aberrant epigenetic marks

Global Methylation Patterns in Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis

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- 65% of the CPG islands with altered methylation in IPF are also modified in LC.
- The methylation profile of IPF shared similarities with both groups, but were more similar to LC group.

MiR-185/AKT and miR-29a/Collagen 1a pathways are activated in IPF BAL cells

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We have previously identified significant decrease of **miR185** and **mir29a** in IPF BAL consistent to the profibrotic profile of lung macrophages in IPF. However there are few data published regarding LC.

Is there common markers in the BALF of LC?

miR185 :

- down-regulated both in IPF and LC
- associated with deregulation of cell cycle and cell proliferation
- alleviate TGFb-induced EMT and col(v) overexpression.
- Inhibits the PI3K-AKT pathway by targeting DNMT1 which activates PTEN through methylation of its promoter.

miR29a:

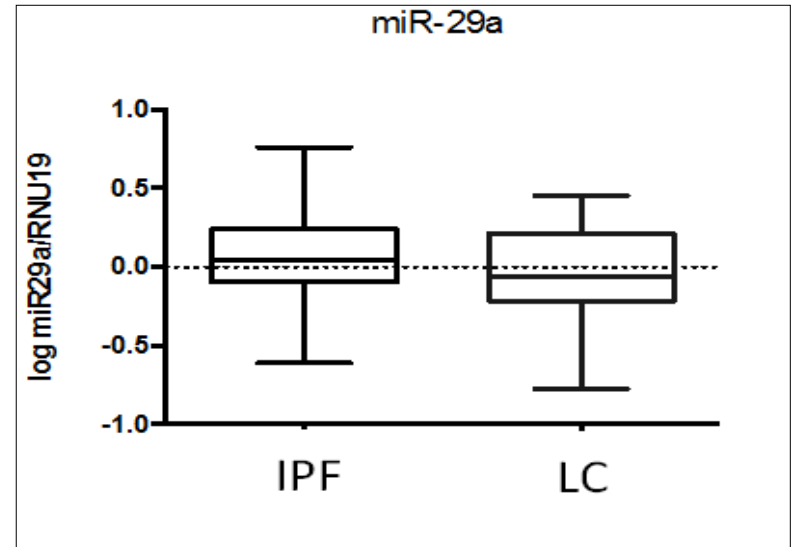
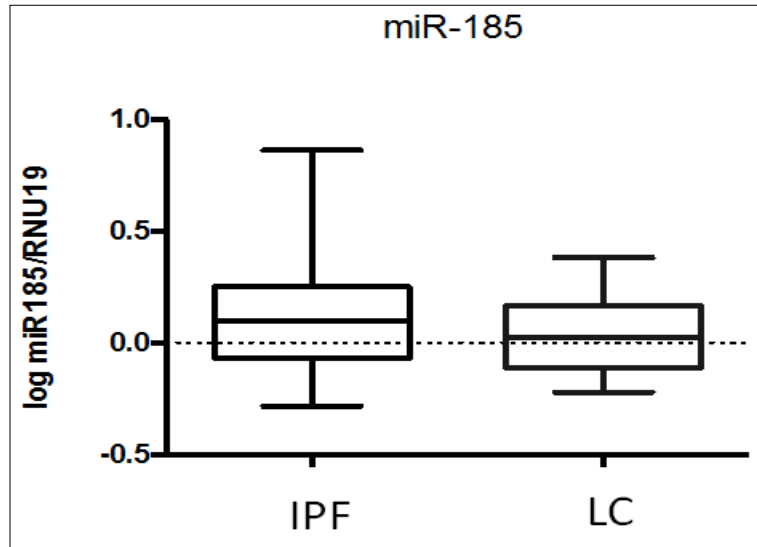
- down-regulated both in IPF and LC
- Targets DNMTs
- Reduces the expression of COL1a1 through inhibiting the phosphorylation of AKT.

METHODS

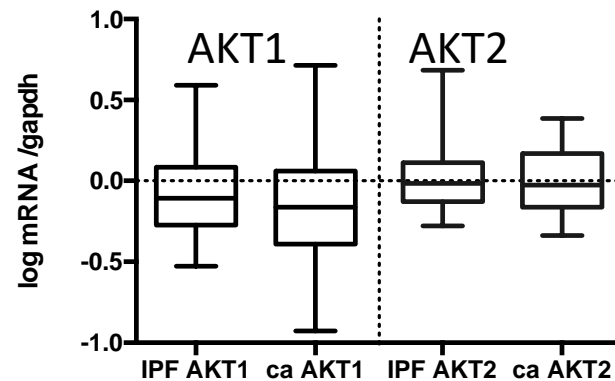
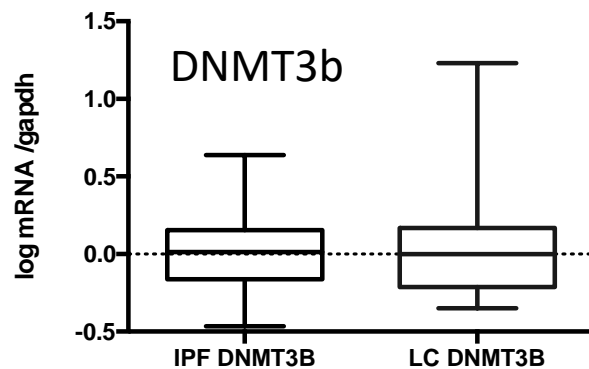
- BALF cells from: 57 IPF and 32 LC patients.
- MiR-185, miR29a and corresponding mRNA targets (DNMT1,DNMT3b,AKT1,AKT2) were analysed by RT-PCR.
- Expression levels were evaluated according to:
 - Disease
 - Age
 - smoking status
 - PFTs
 - Side of endobrochial lesion
 - Cytology
 - pathology results

Demographics	LC (32)	IPF (n=57)
Age(p=0.01)	67.7	72
Gender(m/f)	26/6	46/11
Pyr (p=0.001)	70,2	37.4
Non smoker/smoker	2/26	13/ 43
PFTs	LC	IPF
FVC%	ND	78.6
FEV1%	ND	84,8
%	ND	83,8
TLC	ND	73,6
TLCO/SB	ND	52,3
KCO	ND	88,5
BALF %	LC	IPF
Macrophages	81,3	76,6
Lymphocytes	10,2	11,5
Neutrophils	8	9,3
Eosinophils (p=0.01)	1,3	1,8

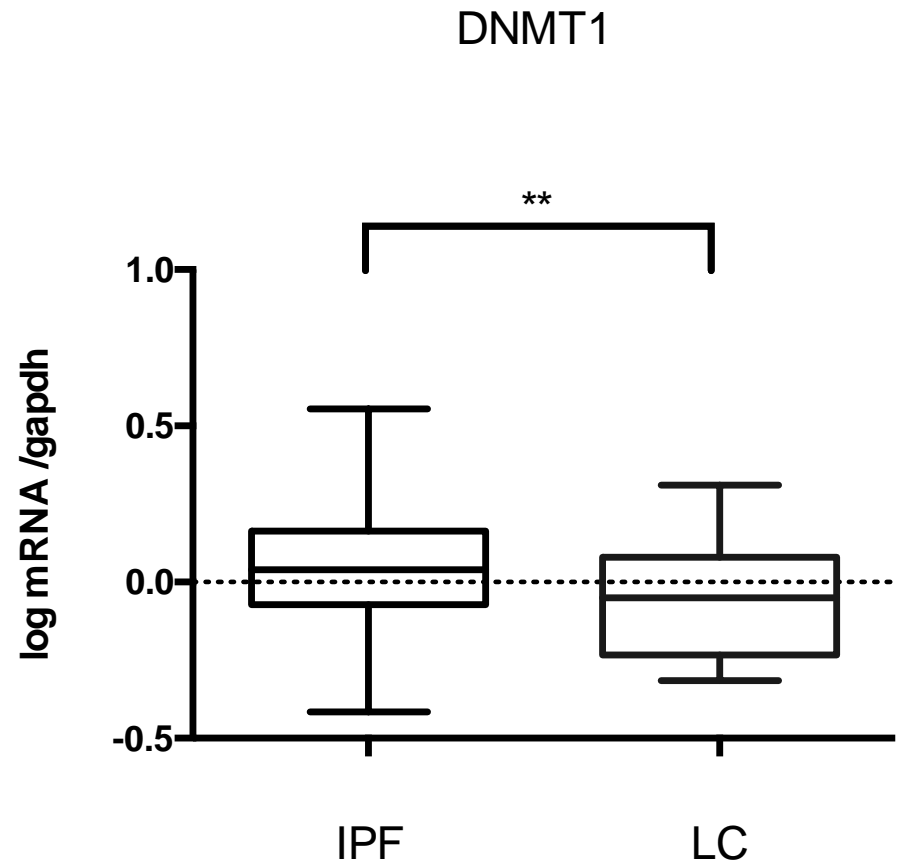
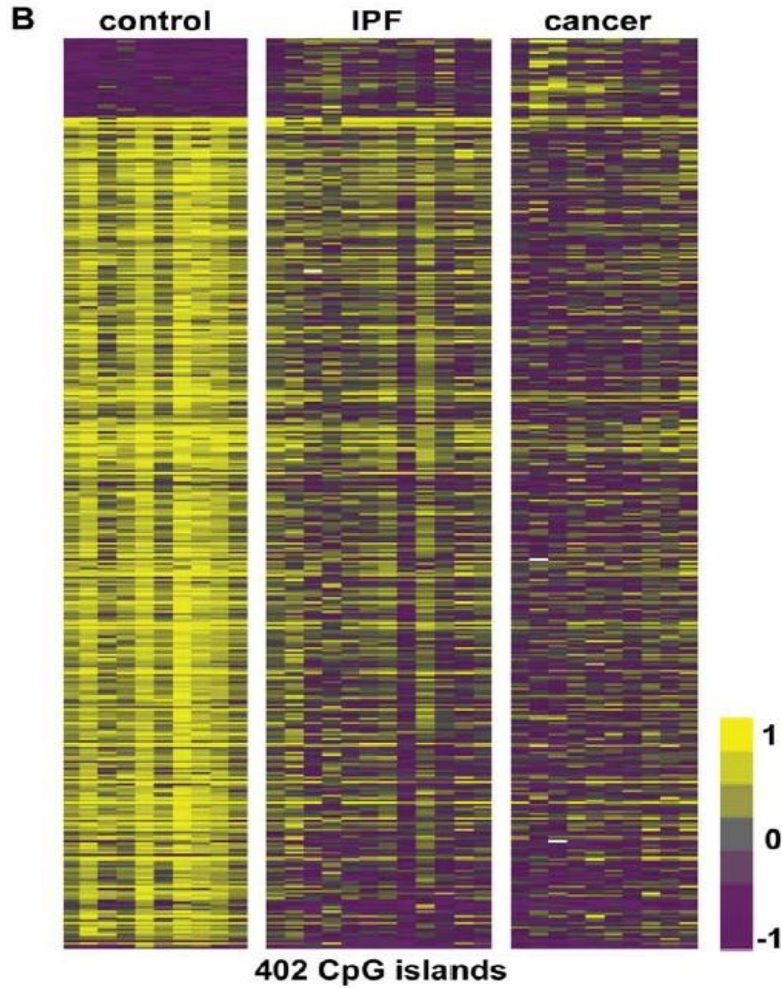
RESULTS



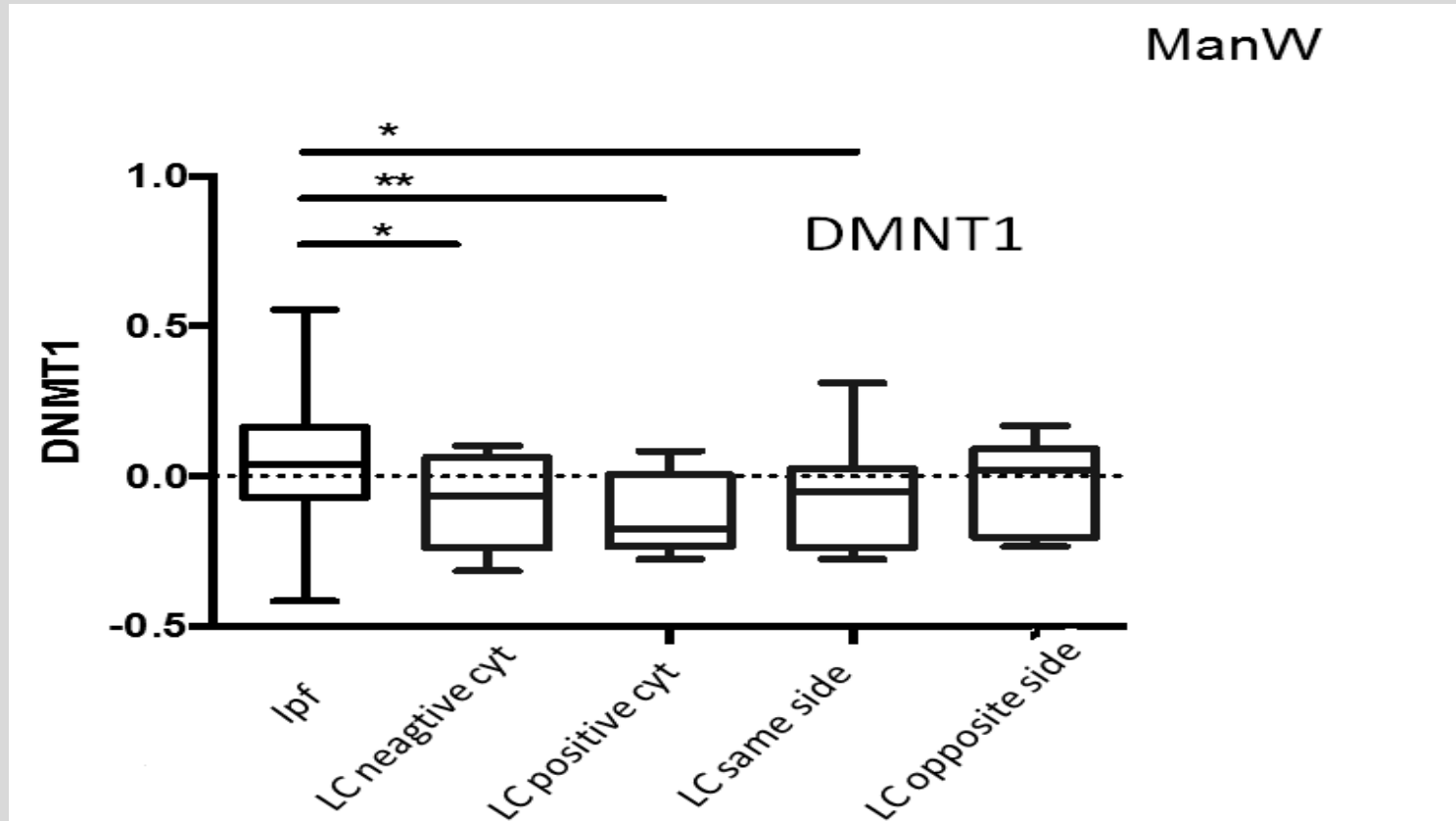
Mir185: inverse correlation with age ($R = -0.5$ $p=0.009$) and PYrs ($R = -0.45$ $p=0.02$)



RESULTS



RESULTS



Conclusion

- Similarities between IPF and LC were noticed at the level of miRNAs (miR-185 and miR-29a) with known implication in both diseases and their targets.
- However, DNMT1 seems to be downregulated in LC and further reduced in the presence of malignant burden in BALF.
- More targets of the two miRNAs at the level of mRNA and protein are planned to be estimated, such as col1a1 and Cox2a.
- Moreover, further evaluation of BALF cells profile are going to be estimated between the two diseases using flow cytometry.



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