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This course was written for dentists, dental hygienists, and assistants.



Clinical Examination

A Peer-Reviewed Publication Written by Steven R. Olmos, DDS

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Educational Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the clinician will be able to do the following:

- 1. Know what is required for evaluation of patients complaining of TMD.
- 2. Understand the steps involved in a full clinical examination, including testing that will be required.
- 3. Understand the uses, pros and cons of the imaging that may be required.

Abstract

A thorough evaluation is required to diagnose whether a patient has a temporomandibular disorder (TMD) or a different problem. Only following a thorough evaluation including clinical examination, can a definitive diagnosis be made and a determination as to whether the patient can be treated with oral appliance therapy or needs to be referred to a specialist.

Introduction

In order to diagnose whether a patient has a temporoman-dibular disorder (TMD) or a different problem, a thorough evaluation is necessary. A differential and definitive diagnosis must then be made. The patient can subsequently be selected for oral appliance therapy or referred to a specialist if required.

Clinical Examination

Step 1. Full Medical and Dental History

A full medical and dental history must be taken, and the patient's chief complaint and current symptoms ascertained. The medical history must include a complete list of drugs taken within the last year. Homeopathic medicines and vitamins must be included in this history — some of these are chemically related to manufactured drugs and may have a negative potentiating effect.

Step 2. Mandibular Ranges of Motion

Following completion of the full medical history form, the assistant performs an initial examination and compiles data for the dentist to review.

The assistant measures the maximum jaw opening in millimeters, degree of protrusion, distance from the CEJ to CEJ (upper to lower central incisor), and the amount of lateral movement. These measurements can be obtained by using an instrument or a flexible measuring device such as a Whale Scale/ROM device.

Studies conducted by Duane Grummons, DDS, MSD, assessed the normal ranges of opening for three facial types and found that there are normal ranges for each type.

WHAT IS THE CHIEF COMPLAINT FOR WHICH YOU ARE SEEKING TREATMENT IN OUR OFFICE? NOTE: PLEASE IDENTIFY YOUR CHIEF COMPLAINT AS #1, LIST ALL OTHER SYMPTOMS IN PRIORITY #2-#9

	Recent	Chronic		Recent	Chronic
		(6 mo. +)			(6 mo. +)
 Headache pain			 Limited ability to open mouth		
 Ear pain			 Jaw joint locking		
 Jaw pain			 Jaw joint noises		
 Pain when chewing			 Ear congestion		
 Facial pain			 Sinus congestion		
 Eye pain			 Dizziness		
 Throat pain			 Tinnitus (ringing in the ears)		
 Neck pain			 Muscle twitching		
 Shoulder pain			 Fatigue		
 Back pain			 Vision problems		
Other:					

WHAT ARE YOUR CURRENT SYMPTOMS?

пеаи	icau raili												
	Location	Recent	Chronic		Severity			Dı	ıration			Frequency	
L=Left	R=Right B=Bilateral		(over 6 mo.)	Mild	Mod.	Severe	Mir	1.	Hrs.	Days	Occasional	Frequent	Constant
L R B	Frontal (Forehead)]					
L R B	Generalized]					
L R B	Parietal (Top of head)]					
L R B	Occipital (Back of head)]					
LRB	Temporal (Temple area)]					

IL - - - D - t --

Name of patient____ Date of examination_

Vitals

B.P.	
Pulse	
Respirations	
Temperature	

_Review of questionnaire _Signatures noted _Allergies noted _Medication noted

A. Mandibular ranges of motion measurements

- mm Maximum opening without pain mm Maximum opening with pain mm Maximum left lateral excursion mm Maximum right lateral excursion mm Deflection to the left
- _____mm Deflection to the right
- _____mm Deviation to the left
- _____mm Deviation to the right

Normal ranges of motion based on cranial skeletal types are: 42–52 mm maximum opening, 8–12 mm protrusive, and 10–14 mm of lateral movement both right and left.



Measurement of maximum opening



Measurement of lateral movement



Normal ranges of motion in mm

	Opening	Lateral	Protrusive
Brachy- facial	52	12	10
Mesofacial	47	10	8
Dolicho- facial	42	8	6

Step 3. Dental Classification Assessment

The next step requires classification of the patient's dental condition. A basic dental examination, and notation on the presence of any prostheses is required.

B. Dental Classification and Relationships

Left Class, Division
Right Class, Division
CEJ to CEJmm
Posterior openbite: leftmm, right
Other:

Overjet (horizontal relationship) _____mm, normal range 1–2 mm Overbite (vertical relationship) _____mm, normal range 1–2 mm Anterior openbite: left _____mm, right

Mandibular dental midline deviation: left _____mm, right _____mm Mandibular skeletal midline deviation: left _____mm, right _____mm Tongue thrust: anterior _____, lateral _____

C. Dental Examination

Missing teeth	Mobile teeth
Sensitivity	Attrition
Caries: large/deep	Caries: small/superficial
Fractured/trauma	When
Damaged restoration	When

Step 4. Cervical Range of Motion

Flexion 80-90 degrees/Extension 70 degrees



Side bending 45 degrees



Rotation 70-80 degrees



The cervical range of motion is measured using an arthroidal protractor. Cervical ranges of motion tests help assess plane of occlusion cants. The patient needs to be able to turn their head equally to the right and left. If not, they have a cervical problem and need to be referred.

Step 5. Full Face and Body Posture Assessment



Posture should be assessed for canting to the side, slumping, and evenness of shoulders. Patients with TMDs frequently present with mandibular cants, slanted body posture, and forward head posture. Inflammation of the TM joint as a result of uneven loading due to occlusal cant relationships may result in forward head posture, as well as cervical and or lumbar pain and dysfunction. Studies have demonstrated that reduction of inflammation, and restoration, have resulted in correction of forward head posture by an average of 4.43 inches.

Step 6. Clinical Muscle Palpation

Palpation is performed on only one structure at a time and on both sides, one side at a time. It must be performed with a consistent force of 3 to 5 pounds for every structure being evaluated.¹ The patient must be given a control such as the fleshy deltoid area (not the bone), as a reference to compare discomfort. The control is rated on a scale of 0 to 3 (0 = no pain, 1 = mild discomfort, 2 = moderate pain, and 3 = severe pain that causes the patient to move away from the pressure). The patient should be asked to describe the level of pain they experience, on the scale of 0 to 3, when you palpate the control area.

Extra-oral muscle palpation

Extra-oral palpation begins with an evaluation of the temporalis, masseter, and anterior digastrics bilaterally. For the clinical importance of these muscles, please refer to the anatomy section of this digest. **Temporalis:** To palpate this muscle, ask the patient to clench. After location of the anterior and posterior fibers, palpate this muscle at rest. Palpation is done bilaterally: first the anterior temporalis, then the medial temporalis, and then the posterior temporalis.







Inferior lateral pterygoid: Place a thumb on the patient's chin and ask him or her to protrude against it. Ask the patient if there is discomfort, and if there is, on which side.



Anterior digastric: Have the patient hold their mandible in a protruded position (i.e., the muscle is contracting). Palpate underneath the chin, where the mandible is V-shaped below the lower incisors.



Intra-oral muscle palpation

Intra-oral palpation follows a series of steps.

- **Step 1.** Begin by evaluating the temporalis tendon. This palpation is performed with the mouth open. Begin the process with your finger on the antero-medial portion of the ramus at the level of the retro-molar area and work your way up to the coronoid process.
- Step 2. Keeping the examination finger in place, ask the patient to close their mouth and press laterally to evaluate the medial pterygoid. Ask the patient to open, and gently palpate the angle of the mandible on the inside of the mouth. Ask first if the patient is a gagger. If gagging is not a problem, palpate below the area of the lower third molar.
- **Step 3.** Palpate the insertion of the buccinator above the first and second molar on the maxilla and then just below these molars on the mandible.
- **Step 4.** Palpate the insertion of the deep masseter at the gonial angle and the inferior border of the mandible.

Leave the finger in the mouth as you move to the other side for examination of the same structures in the same order.

Neck muscles palpation

Extensor muscles that should be palpated at the base of the skull include the trapezius and splenius capitus insertions. The trapezius is found just lateral to center at the base of the skull (supreme nuchal line). The splenius capitus insertion is found just distal to the mastoid process on each side.

The sternocleidomastoid muscles are flexors. Their insertion at the mastoid process should be palpatated. They oppose the action of the trapezius muscles. **Ligaments** The styloid process is an important structure to evaluate. There are four structures that originate from this process: the stylopharyngeal and styloglossus muscles, the stylomandibular and stylohyoid ligaments. Inflammation in these structures can refer pain to the ear, eye, jaw, throat and tongue.

Step 7. Joint Vibration Analysis

Vibration Analysis is an objective test of the TMJ in function. It works on the simple principle of motion and friction. The TMJ should function as smoothly as any other joint, without clicking, popping, grating, or making any of the other noises that patients describe as emanating from their TMJ.

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Sternocleidomastoid







Trapezius

Capsular Palpation







Stylomandibular and Stylohyoid Ligament



JVA will detect vibrations associated with degenerative changes earlier than evidenced on radiographs; is useful in documenting pretreatment joint status; and is more useful than subjective methods of assessment (auscultation and palpation).² JVA uses a silicone-embedded transducer that reduces room noise and transmits joint vibrations to a computer where graphs are generated that can be used for objective analyses.

Step 8. Assessment of Joints

Joint sounds such as clicking and crepitation "are found to occur only in joints with disc dysfunction and/or arthrotic changes of the articulate surface." Widmalm and Westesson were not able to produce noises in those joints with normal anatomy. They concluded that joint sounds indicate joint abnormality, but the absence of joint sounds did not exclude intra-articular pathosis.³ It is important to differentiate a quiet normal joint from a quiet joint with an advanced pathology such as disc displacement without reduction (the disc is dislocated in all movements of the jaw).

Triaging joint noises or identifying the disc position changes that produce the noises enables a more accurate prognosis. For example, it is far more predictable to stabilize an early anterior disc displacement with reduction than a late medial disc displacement with reduction. Joint Vibration Analysis enables the dentist to understand what the noises mean to ensure a proper diagnosis, treatment plan, and longterm result.

Digital palpation and stethoscopes can be used in the absence of JVA to help assess joints and joint noises, however this has been shown to be less than 50% accurate. In the recently published book "TMDs: An Evidence-Based Approach to Diagnosis and Treatment" by D. Laskin and C. Greene (Quintessence 2007) they describe the "relatively limited information with respect to the status of the temporomandibular joint (TMJ)", in the clinical assessment of TMD. This is why it is so important to use an objective tool like JVA.

Capsular Palpation

The lateral temporomandibular joint is palpated with the mouth closed. The lateral portion of the condyle as well as the lateral portion of the temporal zygoma are evaluated at this time. Inflammation present would result in a diagnosis of capsulitis.

Posterior Joint Space



The posterior joint space is palpated with the mouth open. The index finger is used to compress the indentation that develops as the condyle translates away from the tragus of the ear. Inflammation in this area would result in a diagnosis of retro-discitis.

Step 9. Airway and Obstructive Sleep Apnea Assessment

Morning headaches are a common symptom of obstructive sleep apnea (OSA), caused by a decrease in oxygen saturation and are also a sign of TMJ dysfunction. Scalloping of the tongue is 70 percent predictive for a diagnosis of OSA. Patients with headaches and facial pain are frequently classified as having TMJ disorders, when in fact many are suffering from OSA. It is important to include an assessment for OSA when examining patients complaining of TMDs. In OSA, the entire upper airway is blocked. Patients should be assessed using the Epworth Sleepiness Scale. This is a self-administered test that assesses the amount of daytime sleepiness, sleeping pattern, restfulness of sleep, and situations in which the patient falls asleep (such as in the car or while watching television).

Step 10. Dental orofacial examination

Dental orofacial examination is the next step in the assessment and includes an assessment of the oropharyngeal airway and tonsillar region. In addition, an assessment of the cranial nerves is required. This should include questions to the patient and evaluation of smell, salivation, taste, hearing, balance, lack of sensation of feeling or touch, eye movement and pupil dilation. Head movement, tongue movement, and shoulder lifting movements should also be assessed.

Cranial nerve assessment									
Smell	С1								
Sight	C2								
Eye movement, pupil activity	C3,4,6								
Chewing, feeling front of head	C5 (Trigeminal)								
Facial movement, taste, crying, salivating	C7								
Hearing and balance	C8 (Vestibulocochlear)								
Taste, swallowing, salivation	(9								
Taste, swallowing, lifting of palate, speech	C10								
Head turning, shoulder lifting	C11								
Tongue movement	C12								

Final Step. Imaging

The initial X-rays that I recommend for every patient to be evaluated for TM pathology include: a panoramic, submental vertex, and sagittal tomograms in centric occlusion, rest, and maximum opening. These can be ordered from an imaging laboratory if the dentist does not have a machine capable of taking these type of images. I use a CT scan of every patient prior to treatment using the ICAT (cone beam imaging). Depending upon the patient, additional imaging may be necessary such as: CT scans or MRIs, and similar tests may be required in addition to the radiographs previously mentioned. The minimum number of images required should be taken, and you should only take or order images that you can read. Images can be generated from plain film, digitally, or from CT scans. CT scans allow for a cut to be taken at a particular depth or angle through the tissue to show the anatomy (particularly useful when assessing the position of the condyles).

Submental Vertex

Sagittal tomograms are taken with the X-ray beam directed down the long axis of the condyle. This is found using the sub-mental vertex image. The angle of the condyle in relation to a straight line that runs through the ear holes allows the technician to orient or correct the tomograms. When tomograms are taken in this way they are referred to as "corrected" tomograms. This X-ray also allows the clinician to evaluate the condyle size from right to left when it is suspected that there is hypertrophy or hypoplasia.

Tomograms may be "corrected" or "uncorrected". Corrected tomograms of the TMJ are based on a submental vertex radiograph, whereby the condylar long axis is determined, the slice selected and the information transferred to the X-ray machine. The corrected sagittal tomogram is inherently more accurate and repeatable than the transcranial and is the projection of choice.

Corrected tomogram



Tomography of the TMJ

Tomography of the temporomandibular joint has proven to be the most accurate radiographic technique with "slices" or "cuts" of the specific anatomical structures. A slice is superior to its comparable plain film technique because underlying structures that are obstructed on conventional radiographs can be differentiated.

Tomography of the TMJ yields an extraordinary amount of even subclinical information by narrowly "slicing" the medial, center and lateral poles of the condylar head in both sagittal and coronal planes. The narrower the "slice", the greater the detail of the targeted anatomy due to the relative absence of adjacent anatomical structures within the same "slice".





Tomography Slices



Examples of each position are shown above in order: centric occlusion, rest, and maximum opening.

Panoramic radiography

Panoramic radiographs are of benefit for evaluation of gross osseous changes, elongated stylohyoid processes and its ossified ligaments (Eagle's syndrome), antegonial notching, as well as coronoid process hyperplasia.



From a TMD perspective, the panoramic projection is assessed for the following:

Panoramic radiograph

- Relative morphology of the condyles, bilaterally. Are the condyles and ascending rami symmetrical or magnified due to patient rotation?
- Relative size (height) and shape of the coronoid processes. Do they extend above the height of the condyles (condylar hyperplasia)?
- Anti-gonial notching (bone deposition at the gonial angle). Is there more bone deposition on one side indicative of masseter hyperactivity?

The vast majority of the osteogenic degeneration found in the TMJ occurs on the lateral pole and opposing fossa surface, which supports the validity of the CT, tomogram and transcranial projections for viewing the lateral pole. The panoramic radiograph should not be used to determine the condylar position in the glenoid fossa, or to assess subtle degenerative changes. This is because the central ray projects up at an average angle of negative $10-15^{\circ}$, thereby projecting the medial pole up at 12 o'clock and lateral pole superimposed over the ascending ramus at 6 o'clock. Panoramic radiographs are taken with the patient biting on a bite block, so this could not be an accurate method of evaluating the condylefossa relationship.

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)

This is considered by many as the gold standard for soft-tissue imaging of the TMJ, particularly for the meniscus/disc. Using this technology enables the clinician to diagnose disc position in the mouth closed or open positions, as well as to identify inflammation that cannot be determined (proven) any other way. As with tomography and CT scans, MRI images are typically taken in sagittal, coronal, and basilar (SMV) planes with 2 mm cuts.

Computerized axial tomography (CT)

A new single Volumetric Cone-beam CT scan can replace all of the aforementioned procedures (conventional Panoramic radiograph, Cephalogram, PA skull and tomograms of the TMJs and paranasal sinuses). The volumetric cone-beam CT requires just one 20 second scan. Its use reduces radiation exposure, significantly increases detail, and is less expensive for both the clinician and the patient.

In cone-beam CT (CBCT) geometry, the entire subject is exposed from a single point source using a hydrogenated amorphous silicon (aSi:H) flat-panel sensor as its detector. The single rotation results in a volumetric scan of the entire subject with innate rapid volumetric data acquisition. In contrast, with conventional CT scans, 3D Volumetric image reconstruction is achieved by scanning the series of cross-sections and then stacking these slices.

With a single 20 second CBCT scan, one has the full 3D volume of the head and neck from C4 to Nasion including the TMJ's, pharyngeal airway, paranasal and maxillary si-

Magnetic resonance imaging



Cone beam CT scan



nuses, etc. — automatically whether you want it or not. 3D rendering such as the MIP (maximum intensity projection) will undoubtedly demand new cephalometric landmarks and analyses.

Such 3D data can only enhance our existing knowledge with:

- 1. Accurate assessment of bone quality and density (Hounsfield units).
- 2. Accurate corrected TMJ morphology and condylar position.
- 3. Upper airway evaluation.
- 4. The ability to measure before and after treatment arch widths.
- 5. Actual impacted dentition orientation in 3D.

Maximum intensity projection



Cephalometric landmarks



The following images were taken using the phonetic (sibilant) registration for orthotic position. Notice the improvement in orophayngeal airway with the orthotic. Observe the proper condyle-fossa relationships with the orthotic as opposed to the narrowed relationships without.

CT imaging is available by either purchasing a CT unit, or ordering images and a report from your local radiology lab. Costs are as low as \$250 in some areas for a CT image.

Summary

A full clinical examination is of utmost importance in the diagnosis of TMDs. This must include data collection by the assistant, a full medical history, followed by a thorough examination by the dentist, and imaging. Following evaluation, a diagnosis and triage should take place to determine which patients should be treated with oral appliances and which should be referred.

Endnotes

- 1 Conti P, Santos C, et al. Interexaminer Agreement for Muscle Palpation Procedures: The Efficacy of a Calibration Program. *Cranio* 2002
- 2 Brooks CP. Joint vibration analysis in 314 patients presenting with TM dysfunction: correlation with clinical tomographic data. Presentation, 8th International Congress, International College of Craniomandibular Orthopedics. Banff, Alberta, Canada, October 1993.
- Widmalm SE, Westesson PL, et al. Temporomandibular joint sounds: correlation to joint structure in fresh autopsy specimens. Am J Orthod Dentofacial Orthop. 1992;101(1):60–69.



Disc space without orthotic/appliance in place. Note joint space and how condyle is almost touching skull.



Disc space with orthotic/appliance in place. Joint space is enlarged.





Disc space without orthotic/ Disc space with orthotic/apappliance in place. Note pliance in place. Joint space joint space and how condyle is enlarged. is almost touching skull.

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We encourage your comments on this or any PennWell course. For your convenience, an online feedback form is available at www.ineedce.com.

Questions

- 1. A comprehensive examination to determine if a patient has TMD must include _____.
 - a. A health history and review of chief complaints
 - b. A clinical examination
 - c. Test and imaging
 - d. All of the above
- 2. When taking a patient's medical history it is important to obtain information on pharmaceutical medications as well as homeopathic medicines and vitamins.
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 3. The initial examination performed by the assistant should include _____.
 - a. Measurement of maximum jaw opening
 - b. Measurement of degree of protrusion
 - c. Measurement of CEJ to CEJ distance and lateral movement
 - $d. \ \ All \ of the above$
- The normal range of opening for a patient with a dolichofacial type is ______.
 - a. 52 mm
 - b. 47 mm
 - c. 42 mm
 - d. 40 mm

5. The cervical range of motion is measured using _____.

- a. An arthroidal protractor
- b. Calipers
- c. A face bow
- d. None of the above

6. The articular disc is composed of ____

- a. Dense fibrous connective tissue
- b. Hyaline cartilage interspersed with connective tissue
- c. Bone with a cartilage coating
- d. None of the above

7. Joint vibration analysis works on the _____

- a. Principle of motion and friction
- b. Principle of friction and velocity
- c. Principle of mass and velocity
- $d. \ \ None of the above$

8. The temporalis muscle should be palpated _____

- a. With the patient clenching
- b. At rest
- c. After the patient has clenched
- $d. \ b \, and \, c$

9. The superficial masseter muscle is palpated ____

- a. While the muscle is contracting
- b. With the patient clenching
- c. a and b
- $d. \ \ None of the above$

10. The anterior digastric muscle is palpated underneath the chin with the patient's mandible in a protruded position.

- a. True
- b. False

11. Morning headaches are a sign of _____

- a. Obstructive sleep apnea
- b. TMJ dysfunction
- c. a and b
- d. None of the above

12. Initial X-rays taken will include _____.

- a. A panoramic radiograph
- b. A sub-mental vertex radiograph
- c. Sagittal tomograms
- d. All of the above

13. The neck muscles that must be palpated

- include _____
- a. The trapezius
- b. The splenius capitus
- c. The sternocleidomastoid
- d. All of the above

14. The _____ originates from the styloid process.

- a. Styloglossus muscle
- b. Stylopharyngeal muscle
- c. Stylomandibular and stylohyoid ligaments
- d. All of the above

15. Muscles must be palpated _____.

- a. One at a time
- b. One side at a time
- c. Bilaterally
- d. All of the above

16. The lateral temporomandibular joint is palpated _____.

- a. With the mouth open
- b. With the mouth closed
- c. With the neck rotated
- d. None of the above

17. The corrected sagittal tomogram is _____

- a. Only useful in assessing intra-oral structures
- b. Less accurate than a panoramic radiograph
- c. Inherently more accurate than the transcranial projection
- d. None of the above

18. The TMJ should not _____.

- a. Click
- b. Pop
- c. Produce a grating noise
- d. All of the above

19. The Epworth Sleepiness Scale _____.

- a. Is self-administered by the patient
- b. Assesses the amount and restfulness of sleep
- c. Assesses the sleeping pattern
- d. All of the above

- a. A diagnosis
- b. Triage
- c. a and b
- d. None of the above

ANSWER SHEET

Clinical Examination

Name:	Title:	Specialty:
Address:	E-mail:	
City:	State:	ZIP:
Telephone: Home ()	Office ()	

Requirements for successful completion of the course and to obtain dental continuing education credits: 1) Read the entire course. 2) Complete all information above. 3) Complete answer sheets in either pen or pencil. 4) Mark only one answer for each question. 5) A score of 70% on this test will earn you 3 CE credits. 6) Complete the Course Evaluation below. 7) Make check payable to PennWell Corp.

Educational Objectives

- 1. Know what is required for evaluation of patients complaining of TMD.
- 2. Understand the steps involved in a full clinical examination, including testing that will be required.
- 3. Understand the uses, pros and cons of the imaging that may be required.

Course Evaluation

Please evaluate this course by responding to the following statements, using a scale of Excellent = 5 to Poor = 0.

1. Were the individual course objectives met?	Objective #1:	Yes	No		Objectiv	/e #3:	Yes	No	
	Objective #2:	Yes	No						
2. To what extent were the course objectives accomp	5		4	3	2	1		0	
3. Please rate your personal mastery of the course of	5		4	3	2	1		0	
4. How would you rate the objectives and education	5		4	3	2	1		0	
5. How do you rate the author's grasp of the topic?	5		4	3	2	1		0	
6. Please rate the instructor's effectiveness.		5		4	3	2	1		0
7. Was the overall administration of the course effect	tive?	5		4	3	2	1		0
8. Do you feel that the references were adequate?				Yes		No			
9. Would you participate in a similar program on a d	ifferent topic?			Yes		No			
10. If any of the continuing education questions were unclear or ambiguous, please list them.									

11. Was there any subject matter you found confusing? Please describe.

12. What additional continuing dental education topics would you like to see?

Mail completed answer sheet to Academy of Dental Therapeutics and Stomatology, A Division of PennWell Corp.

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