Electronic Supplementary Information for

An Endoplasmic Reticulum-targeting Hydroxyl Radical Fluorescence Probe for Imaging of Ferroptosis and Screening of Natural Protectants

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Materials and instruments

1-Boc piperazine, 4-fluorosalicylaldehyde, ethyl acetoacetate, rhodamine 123 and phorbol-12-myristate-13-acetate (PMA) were obtained from Energy Chemical. Erastin, RSL3, ferrostatin-1 (Fer-1) and liproxstatin-1 (Lip-1) were obtained from TargetMol. Tempol and deferoxamine mesylate (DFO) were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich. ER-Tracker Green and Lyso-Tracker Green were obtained from Beyotime biotechnology Co., LTD (Shanghai, China). The standard substances of natural products were obtained from Desite biotechnology Co. LTD (Chengdu, China). Monochlorobimane and C11-BODIPY 581/591 were obtained from GlpBio. Human glutathione peroxidase 4 (GPX4) ELISA kit was purchased from Ruixin biotechnology Co., LTD (Quanzhou, China).

NMR spectra were measured on a DD2 400 MHz spectrometer (Agilent, USA). Absorption spectra and fluorescence spectra were measured by a UV 2600i spectrophotometer (Shimadzu, Japan) and a Cary Eclipse spectrophotometer (Varian, USA), respectively. Fluorescence imaging of living cells was performed by a STELLARIS 5 confocal laser scanning microscope (Leica, Germany) and image processing were conducted by ImageJ software. Fluorescence imaging of mice was performed by a Nightowl LB 983 imaging system (Berthold, Germany).

Synthesis and characterization of ER-OH



Scheme S1 Synthetic procedures of ER-OH.

Synthesis of compound 1

1-Boc piperazine (2.23 g, 12 mmol) and 4-fluorosalicylaldehyde (1.40 g, 10 mmol) were dissolved in 25 mL of DMSO, then heated to 100 °C for 22 h. After that, 50 mL of deionized water was added. The mixture was then extracted by ethyl acetate (20 mL × 3). The organic phase was washed with saturated brine, and dried with anhydrous Mg₂SO₄, then removed the solvent under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate = 2 : 1, v/v) to obtain compound **1** as yellow solid (2.30 g, 75% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 11.15 (s, 1H), 9.74 (s, 1H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 6.57 (dd, *J* = 9.1, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 6.30 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.46 – 3.38 (m, 8H), 1.42 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 191.6, 163.5, 156.4, 154.2, 133.7, 113.3, 106.7, 99.2, 79.6, 46.3, 46.2, 28.5.

Synthesis of compound 2

Compound **1** (3.06 g, 10 mmol) and ethyl acetoacetate (1.69 g, 13 mmol) were dissolved in 200 mL anhydrous ethanol and 2 mL piperidine. The mixture was heated to reflux 4 h, then cooled down in an ice water bath to form orange-yellow precipitates. The precipitates were filtrated and dried to obtain compound **2** (2.95 g, yield 79.4 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 8.54 (s, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.51 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 4H), 3.46 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 4H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 1.42 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): δ 194.9, 159.9, 158.2, 155.3, 154.2, 148.1, 132.6, 117.3, 112.0, 109.3, 98.7, 79.6, 56.5, 46.4, 30.7, 28.5.

Synthesis of compound 3

Compound **2** (3.72 g, 10 mmol) was dissolved in 70 mL CH₂Cl₂ and 30 mL trifluoroacetic acid. The solution was stirred for 30 min at room temperature, then the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (CH₂Cl₂ : MeOH = 10 : 1, v/v) to afford compound **3** as yellow solid (2.14 g, 78.2 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*): δ 8.44 (s, 1H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.45 – 3.40 (m, 4H), 3.05 – 3.01 (m, 4H), 2.69 (s, 3H), 1.82 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*): δ 195.8, 160.6, 158.4, 155.7, 147.9, 131.7, 118.0, 111.7, 109.7, 99.2, 48.1, 45.8, 30.8. HR-ESI-MS: *m/z* calcd for compound **3** (C₁₅H₁₆N₂O₃Na⁺, [M + Na]⁺), 295.1053; found, 295.1061.

Synthesis of compound 4

Compound **3** (2.72 g, 10 mmol), *p*-toluenesulfonyl chloride (2.86 g, 15 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (2.76 g, 20 mmol) were dissolved 40 mL acetonitrile, then heated at 40 °C for 8 h. After cooling down to room temperature, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The solid residue was then purified by silica gel column chromatography (CH₂Cl₂ : MeOH = 100 : 1, v/v) to obtain compound **4** as yellow solid (2.03 g, 47.5 % yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Acetonitrile-*d*₃): δ 8.43 (s, 2H), 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 2H), 3.79-3.76 (m, 4H), 3.60-3.57 (m, 4H), 2.57 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Acetonitrile-*d*₃): δ 195.9, 161.4, 159.0, 155.7, 148.2, 132.8, 131.0, 129.7, 129.1, 119.6, 116.1, 112.6, 110.7, 100.1, 47.8, 46.6, 43.5, 30.5. HR-ESI-MS: *m/z* calcd for compound **4** (C₂₂H₂₂N₂O₅SNa⁺, [M + Na]⁺), 449.1142; found, 449.1145.

Synthesis of compound ER-OH

Compound **4** (853 mg, 2 mmol), 3-formyl-1-methylquinolin-1-ium iodide ¹ (413 mg, 2.4 mmol) and NaOH (0.40 mg, 10 mmol) were dissolved in 40 mL ethanol and H₂O (1:1 v/v). The reaction was stirred at 35 °C for 24 h in dark, and removed solvent under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (CH₂Cl₂: MeOH = 100 : 1) to obtain ER-OH as yellow powder (148 mg, 12.4%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*): δ 9.10 (s, 1H), 8.35 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (s, 1H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.55 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.70 (t, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 3.59 (dd, *J* = 15.3, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 3.49 (t, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 4H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 3.12 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 4H), 3.00 (dd, *J* = 15.3, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*): δ 193.7, 186.9, 160.0, 157.8, 154.3, 151.8, 147.8, 144.2, 138.1, 133.3, 132.0, 131.6, 130.0, 129.9, 127.8, 126.9, 124.6, 119.0, 114.8, 112.8, 111. 9, 110. 5, 100.0, 52.1, 46.7, 44.9, 39.4, 30.8, 21.6. HR-ESI-MS: *m/z* calcd for ER-OH (C₃₃H₃₁N₃O₆SNa⁺, [M + Na]⁺), 620.1826; found, 620.1830.



Fig. S1 ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 1 in DMSO- d_6 (400 MHz, 298 K).



Fig. S2 ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound 1 in DMSO- d_6 (101 MHz, 298 K).



Fig. S3 ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 2 in DMSO- d_6 (400 MHz, 298 K).



Fig. S4 13 C NMR spectrum of compound 2 in DMSO- d_6 (101 MHz, 298 K).



Fig. S5. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound **3** in CDCl₃ (400 MHz, 298 K).



Fig. S6¹³C NMR spectrum of compound 3 in CDCl₃ (101 MHz, 298 K).



Fig. S7 HR-ESI-MS spectrum of compound 3.



Fig. S8 ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 4 in Acetonitrile-*d*₃ (400 MHz, 298 K).



Fig. S9¹³C NMR spectrum of compound 4 in Acetonitrile-*d*₃ (101 MHz, 298 K).



Fig. S10 HR-ESI-MS spectrum of compound 4.



Fig. S11 ¹H NMR spectrum of ER-OH in CDCl₃ (400 MHz, 298 K).



Fig. S12 ¹³C NMR spectrum of ER-OH in CDCl₃ (101 MHz, 298 K).



Fig. S13 HR-ESI-MS spectrum of ER-OH.



Fig. S14 HPLC assay of ER-OH. The purity of ER-OH was determined to be 99.1% (peak area).

Methods

General procedures for spectroscopic measurements

Unless otherwise mentioned, all spectral measurements for •OH were performed in 20 mM phosphate buffers as follow: to the test tubes, 3 mL of phosphate buffer and 10 μ L of ER-OH stock solution (1 mM in DMF; final concentration 10 μ M) was added, and followed by an appropriate amount of reactant (TCBQ/H₂O₂, Fe²⁺-EDTA/H₂O₂ or other analytes). The resulting mixtures were allowed to react for 30 min left at room temperature and then subjected to spectroscopic measurements. Unless otherwise stated, the results were presented as mean \pm standard deviation (n = 3).

Cell culture

HT-1080 cells were cultured in RPMI 1640 medium containing 10% (v/v) new-born bovine serum, 100 U/mL penicillin, and 100 μ g/mL streptomycin. HeLa cells and 4T1 cells were cultured in DMEM medium containing 10% fetal bovine serum, 100 U/mL penicillin, and 100 μ g/ mL streptomycin. All the cells were cultured at 37°C in a humidity of 95% air and 5% CO₂. After growing to approximately 70% confluence, the cells were treated with trypsin, and then re-cultured in the glass-bottom dishes for 24 h for the next experiments.

Fluorescence imaging of •OH in cells

For fluorescence imaging for exogenous •OH in living cells, HT-1080 or HeLa cells were incubated with 10 μ M ER-OH for 30 min. Then, the cells were washed three times with serum-free medium, and incubated with 50 μ M or 100 μ M Fenton reagents (Fe²⁺-EDTA and H₂O₂) for 30 min for fluorescence imaging. For scavenging of •OH, 100 μ M tempol (•OH scavenger) was added and co-incubated with 100 μ M Fenton reagents. Fluorescence imaging was performed on a confocal laser scanning microscope with a 510 nm excitation source by collecting fluorescence signal from 600 nm to 700 nm (similarly hereinafter).

For fluorescence imaging of endogenous •OH in living cells, HT-1080 or HeLa cells were incubated with 2 μ g/mL PMA for 2, 4, and 6 h, respectively. Then, the cells were washed three times with serum-free medium, and treated with 10 μ M ER-OH for 30 min for imaging. For scavenging of •OH, the PMA-treated (6 h) cells were added with 100 μ M tempol for 30 min before staining with ER-OH.

For fluorescence imaging of •OH in ferroptosis process, HT-1080 cells were treated with 10 μ M erastin or 2 μ M RSL3 for 2, 4 and 6 h to induce ferroptosis. After removal of the medium, the cells were washed three times with serum-free medium, and then incubated with 10 μ M ER-OH for 30 min for •OH imaging. In the ferroptosis inhibition group, the cells were incubated with 10 μ M erastin or 2 μ M RSL3 in the presence of 200 μ M DFO, 10 μ M Fer-1 or 10 μ M Lip-1.

High-throughput screening of natural products

HT-1080 cells were co-treated with 10 μ M erastin (or 2 μ M RSL3) and 25 μ M various natural products for 8 h, respectively. Then, the culture medium was removed, and the cells were washed three times with serum-free medium, and finally stained with 10 μ M ER-OH for

30 min for fluorescence imaging. The •OH scavenging efficiency (E) of the corresponding natural products were calculated as formula S1.

$$E (\%) = (F_1 - F_x)/(F_1 - F_0) \times 100\%$$
(S1)

where F_1 is the fluorescence intensity of ferroptotic cells, F_0 is the fluorescence intensity of normal cells, and F_x is the fluorescence intensity of ferroptotic cells co-incubated with natural products.

Studies on the anti-ferroptosis effects of icariside I

HT-1080 cells were divided into four groups and treated as follow: (1) without any treatment; (2) 10 μ M erastin (or 2 μ M RSL3) for 8 h; (3) 10 μ M erastin (or 2 μ M RSL3) + 25 μ M for 8 h; (4) 10 μ M erastin (or 2 μ M RSL3) + 25 μ M Fer-1 for 8 h. After treatment, all the above cells were washed by serum-free medium for three times for the following experiments. For cell viability assay, the cells were subjected to standard MTT assays.² The GPX4 levels of the cells were detected by GPX4 ELISA kit according to the manufacturer's protocols. For fluorescence imaging of GSH and lipid peroxidation levels, the cells were treated with 10 μ M monochlorobimane or C11-BODIPY 581/591 for 30 min. For monochlorobimane, fluorescence imaging was performed with an excitation of 405 nm, and fluorescence imaging was performed with an excitation of 405 nm, and fluorescence imaging was performed with an excitation of 490 nm, and fluorescence signals were collected in the range of 505 nm-550 nm.

Imaging of •OH in tumor models of mice:

5-week-old SPF BALB/c female mice were selected to establish an ectopic 4T1 tumor model. All animal experiments were approved by the Experimental Animal Ethics Committee of Zunyi Medical university (approval number: [2021]2-422). The mice were acclimatized for one week at 25°C and 40 - 60% humidity. Then, the right dorsum of the mice was subcutaneously injected with 100 μ L of 4T1 cells (1 × 10⁷ cells/mL) to establish ectopic 4T1 tumor models, which was allowed to grow to about 100 mm³. Fluorescence imaging was performed after *in situ* injection of 20 μ L ER-OH (1 mM in pH 7.4 PBS containing 10% DMF) into the tumor tissue, as well as the normal tissue on the left dorsum as a control.

Detection of •OH



Fig. S15 Absorption spectra of ER-OH (10 μ M) (a) before and (b) after reacting with •OH (10 μ M TCBQ/H₂O₂).



Fig. S16 LC-MS assays of different reaction systems: (a) ER-OH only; b) ER-OH reacting with •OH (TCBQ + H_2O_2) in acetonitrile. The assignments of the peaks: (i) $t_R = 5.6$ min, product 1 (m/z = 596.2); (ii) $t_R = 7.0$ min, ER-OH (m/z = 620.2).



Fig. S17 HR-ESI-MS spectrum of ER-OH after reacting with •OH.



Fig. S18 Fluorescence intensity of 10 μ M Lyso-OH itself or its reaction with •OH (10 μ M TCBQ + 10 μ M H₂O₂) under a white light illumination (0.4 W/cm²) or in the dark. $\lambda_{ex/em} = 510/645$ nm.



Fig. S19 Effects of (A) reaction time and (B) pH on the fluorescence response of ER-OH (10 μ M) to •OH from Fenton reagent (50 μ M Fe²⁺-EDTA/ H₂O₂). (C) Linear relationship of fluorescence intensity and Fenton reagent concentration. $\lambda_{ex/em} = 510/645$ nm.



Fig. S20 Fluorescence responses of 10 μ M ER-OH toward various common bioactive species and metal ions in pH 7.4 phosphate buffer: •OH (20 μ M TCBQ + 20 μ M H₂O₂); 1 mM Cys; 5 mM GSH; 100 μ M Hcy; 1 mM Glu; 1 mM Ala; 1 mM Lys; 1 mM Gly; 10 mM glucose; 1mM Vit C; 100 μ M Cu²⁺; 150 mM K⁺; 2 mM Mg²⁺; 100 μ M Ca²⁺; 100 μ M Zn²⁺; 100 μ M Fe³⁺; 30 μ g/mL BSA. $\lambda_{ex/em} = 510/640$ nm.

Biocompatibility of ER-OH



Fig. S21 The viability of different cells after treated with various amounts of ER-OH for 24 h. The viability of the untreated cells (0 μ M) is defined as 100%. The results are presented as mean \pm standard deviation (n = 6).



Imaging of exogenous and endogenous •OH in living cells

Fig. S22 Fluorescence imaging of •OH in HeLa and HT-1080 cells treated by Fenton reagent (Fe²⁺-EDTA + H₂O₂). (a) Cells only. (b-e) Cells incubated with 10 μ M ER-OH for 30 min, then with (b) 0 μ M, (c) 50 μ M, (d) 100 μ M Fenton reagent or (e) 100 μ M Fenton reagent and 200 μ M tempol for 30 min. $\lambda_{ex} = 510$ nm, $\lambda_{em} = 600-700$ nm. Scale bars, 30 μ m. (f) Relative pixel intensity of images b-e of HeLa and HT-1080 cells. Note: the pixel intensity of the corresponding image b is defined as 1.0; the results are presented as mean ± standard deviation (n = 3).



Fig. S23 Fluorescence imaging of •OH in HeLa and HT-1080 cells stimulated by PMA. (a) Cells only. (b-e) Cells pretreated with PMA (10 µg/mL) for (b) 0 h, (c) 2 h, (d) 4 h or (e) 6 h, and then incubated with ER-OH (10 µM) for 30 min. (f) Cells pretreated with PMA (10 µg/mL) for 6 h, then incubated with tempol (200 µM) for 30 min, and finally stained with ER-OH (10 µM) for 30 min. $\lambda_{ex} = 510$ nm, $\lambda_{em} = 600$ -700 nm. Scale bars, 30 µm. (g) Relative pixel intensity of images b-f of HeLa and HT-1080 cells. Note: the pixel intensity of the corresponding image b is defined as 1.0; the results are presented as mean ± standard deviation (n = 3).



Imaging of the effect of icariside I on ferroptosis

Fig. S24 (A) Fluorescence imaging of HT-1080 cells treated with 2 μ M RSL3 and 25 μ M various compounds for 8 h. $\lambda_{ex} = 510$ nm, $\lambda_{em} = 600-700$ nm. Scale bar, 30 μ m. (B) Relative pixel intensity of images a-e in panel A. Note: the pixel intensity of image a is defined as 1.0; the results are presented as mean \pm standard deviation (n = 3).



Fig. S25 Fluorescence imaging of HT-1080 cells treated with 10 μ M erastin (or 2 μ M RSL3) and different concentrations of icariside I for 8 h. $\lambda_{ex} = 510$ nm, $\lambda_{em} = 600-700$ nm. Scale bars, 30 μ m. (f) Relative pixel intensity of the corresponding images b-e. Note: the pixel intensity of the corresponding image b is defined as 1.0; the results are presented as mean \pm standard deviation (n = 3).



Fig. S26 Fluorescence imaging of HT-1080 cells treated with 10 μ M erastin (or 2 μ M RSL3) for 8 h, and then incubated with 25 μ M icariside I for indicated time. $\lambda_{ex} = 510$ nm, $\lambda_{em} = 600-700$ nm. Scale bars, 30 μ m. (f) Relative pixel intensity of the corresponding images be. Note: the pixel intensity of the corresponding image b is defined as 1.0; the results are presented as mean \pm standard deviation (n = 3).



Fig. S27 Fluorescence imaging of ER •OH in HT-1080 cells during ferroptosis induced by FIN56 or FINO₂. (a) Cells only. (b-d) Cells pretreated with 10 μ M FIN56 or 10 μ M FINO₂ for (b) 0 h, (c) 4 h, (d) 6 h, and then incubated with 10 μ M ER-OH for 30 min. (e, f) Cells pretreated with 10 μ M FIN56 or 10 μ M FINO₂ for 6 h in the presence of (e) 25 μ M Icar or (f) 25 μ M Fer-1, and then treated with 10 μ M ER-OH for 30 min. (g) Relative fluorescence intensities of images b-f (fluorescence intensity of image b is defined as 1.0). $\lambda_{ex} = 510$ nm, $\lambda_{em} = 600$ nm-700 nm. Scar bars, 30 μ m.



Fig. S28. Detection of lipid peroxides (LPO, 200 μ M arachidonic acid + 10 μ g/mL lipoxygenase) by 10 μ M C11-BODIPY 581/591 in the presence of varied icariside I (Icar I). $\lambda_{ex} = 480$ nm. Δ F represents the difference in fluorescence intensity ($\lambda_{em} = 520$ nm) of C11-BODIPY 581/591 after and before the reaction with LPO.



Fig. S29 Imaging of intracellular Fe²⁺ level by 10 μ M RhoNox-1 in HT-1080 cells treated with different reagents for 6 h: 10 μ M erastin (A); 2 μ M RSL3 (B). Concentrations: 25 μ M Icar, 10 μ M Fer-1. $\lambda_{ex} = 550$ nm, $\lambda_{em} = 580$ -700 nm. Scale bars, 30 μ m. Significant differences were performed by Student's *t*-test (*p < 0.05; **p < 0.01).



Fluorescence imaging of mice

Fig. S30. *In vivo* fluorescence imaging of •OH in mice with ectopic 4T1 tumor. (A) Fluorescence imaging of the normal (left) and tumor (right) tissues after *in situ* injection with 20 μ L of ER-OH (1 mM in pH 7.4 PBS, containing 10% DMF and 1 % Tween 80) at different post-injection time points. (B) Fluorescence intensities in the tumor and normal tissues (n=3).

Comparison of ER-OH with existing •OH probes

 $\textbf{Table S1} \ \text{Comparison of the analytical properties of ER-OH with some existing \bullet OH probes.}$

	Structure	Analytical wavelength	Detection limit	Organelle- targeting	Applications	Ref.
1		637 nm	0.26 µM	not mentioned	monitoring of ferroptosis	3
2		708 nm	24 nM	not mentioned	monitoring of ferroptosis	4
3	P P P P P P P P P P	446 nm	7 μΜ	endoplasmic reticulum	imaging of PMA-treated cells	5

4	655 nm	8.9 nM	lysosome	monitoring of ferroptosis and cuproptosis; imaging of tumor model	6
5	635 nm	5.77 nM	not mentioned	imaging of diabetes model	7
6	650 nm	330 nM	not mentioned	monitoring of ferroptosis	8
7	665 nm	7.7 nM	not mentioned	monitoring of ferroptosis and cuproptosis; imaging of tumor model	9
8	550 nm	70 nM	not mentioned	monitoring of ferroptosis; imaging of AD model	10

9	s s s s t s t s t s t s t s t s t s t s	578 nm	13.6 nM	mitochondria; nucleoli	monitoring of ferroptosis	11
10		652 nm	8.6 nM	not mentioned	monitoring of ferroptosis	12
11		720 nm	5.30 nM	mitochondria	high-throughput screening of natural products for acute kidney injury	13
12		608 nm	69.65 nM	not mentioned	monitoring of ferroptosis; imaging of zebrafish; imaging of bacterial invasion model of mice	14
13		645 nm	125 nM	endoplasmic reticulum	monitoring of ferroptosis; high-throughput screening of natural ferroptosis inhibitors	This work

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