

Macarthur Competence Assessment Tool

Macarthur Competence Assessment Tool Understanding the MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool (MacCAT) is an essential instrument used by mental health professionals, legal practitioners, and researchers to evaluate a person's capacity to make informed decisions. This tool is especially critical in medical and legal settings where understanding a patient's ability to comprehend information, appreciate their situation, and make voluntary decisions can significantly influence treatment plans, consent processes, and legal rulings. The MacCAT's structured approach ensures that assessments are thorough, standardized, and reliable, making it one of the most respected tools in the field of capacity evaluation.

The Origins and Development of the MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool Historical Background The MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool was developed in the late 20th century as part of the MacArthur Studies of Mental Illness and Violence. Its creation aimed to address the need for a standardized, evidence-based method to assess decision-making capacity in individuals with mental health conditions or cognitive impairments.

Development Principles Designed with input from clinicians, legal experts, and researchers, the MacCAT emphasizes: - Clear, structured assessment procedures - Focus on key components of decision-making - Flexibility for different populations and contexts - Empirical validation and reliability

Versions of the MacCAT Over time, several versions of the MacCAT have been developed to suit different application needs, including: - MacCAT-T: For capacity to consent to treatment - MacCAT-CR: For research consent capacity - MacCAT-FP: Focused on financial capacity

These variants adapt the core principles of the original tool to specific domains, ensuring relevance and precision.

Core Components of the MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool The MacCAT evaluates decision-making capacity across four primary domains:

1. Understanding The individual's ability to comprehend relevant information about their condition, treatment options, or research participation. Assessment Focus: - Knowledge of diagnosis and treatment - Awareness of potential risks and benefits - Ability to grasp key facts presented Sample Questions: - Can you explain in your own words what your condition is? - What are the possible treatments available?
2. Appreciation The person's recognition of how the information applies to their own situation. Assessment Focus: - Recognizing the implications of their condition - Acknowledging how treatment choices affect their life - Understanding their personal risks and benefits Sample Questions: - Do you believe that your diagnosis applies to you? - How do you see the treatment options fitting your situation?
3. Reasoning The capacity to compare options, weigh consequences, and reach a logical decision. Assessment Focus: - Ability to evaluate the pros and cons - Consideration of alternatives - Logical reasoning behind choices Sample Questions: - Why do you prefer this treatment over others? - What are some reasons that might influence your decision?
4. Choice The expression of a clear, consistent decision regarding treatment or participation. Assessment Focus: - The individual's expressed decision - Consistency over time - Voluntariness of the choice Sample Observation: - Is the decision made freely without undue influence? - Does the choice align with previous statements?

Application of the MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool Clinical Settings In mental health clinics, the MacCAT is used to: - Determine if patients with mental illnesses can consent to hospitalization or treatment - Assess

capacity in individuals with cognitive impairments such as dementia - Guide clinicians in developing appropriate intervention strategies

Legal Settings Legal professionals utilize the MacCAT to:

- Evaluate defendants' or plaintiffs' capacity to stand trial
- Inform guardianship decisions
- Assess consent validity in legal disputes

Research Contexts Researchers employ the MacCAT to:

- Ensure participants provide informed consent
- Confirm understanding of research procedures, risks, and rights

Benefits of Using the MacCAT

- Standardized assessment increases reliability
- Facilitates communication between professionals
- Supports ethical decision-making and patient autonomy
- Provides a structured framework adaptable to diverse populations

Conducting a MacArthur Competence Assessment Preparation

- Review relevant medical and psychological history
- Ensure a confidential, distraction-free environment
- Clarify the purpose of the assessment

Administration Steps

1. **Present Clear Information:** Use simple language to explain the situation
2. **Engage the Individual:** Ask questions to gauge understanding and appreciation
3. **Evaluate Reasoning:** Present hypothetical or real scenarios to assess reasoning
4. **Observe the Decision:** Document the choice made and its consistency
5. **Document Findings:** Record responses, observations, and conclusions systematically

Scoring and Interpretation While the MacCAT provides qualitative insights, some versions include scoring systems to quantify capacity levels. Interpretation involves:

- Comparing scores or responses against normative data
- Considering contextual factors such as cultural background or education
- Making clinical judgments informed by the assessment results

Advantages and Limitations of the MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool

Advantages

- **Structured and Standardized:** Ensures consistency across evaluations
- **Evidence-Based:** Backed by research and validation
- **Flexible:** Can be adapted for various contexts and populations
- **Comprehensive:** Covers multiple aspects of decision-making

Limitations

- **Subjectivity in Interpretation:** Requires trained professionals for accurate judgments
- **Time-Consuming:** Full assessments can take considerable time
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** May need adaptation for different cultural or linguistic groups
- **Limited Scope:** Focuses primarily on cognitive aspects; emotional or psychological factors may require additional assessment

Enhancing the Effectiveness of the MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool

Training and Education Proper training ensures evaluators understand the nuances of administering and interpreting the MacCAT effectively.

Cultural Adaptations Adapting the language and examples used in assessments can improve accuracy across diverse populations.

3 Combining with Other Tools Using the MacCAT alongside other assessments, such as cognitive testing or psychiatric evaluations, provides a more comprehensive picture.

Conclusion The MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool remains a cornerstone in evaluating decision-making capacity within clinical, legal, and research domains. Its structured framework ensures that assessments are systematic, transparent, and ethically sound. As understanding of mental health and cognitive impairments advances, so does the importance of reliable tools like the MacCAT. Proper training, cultural sensitivity, and integration with other assessment methods can enhance its effectiveness, ultimately supporting individuals' autonomy and safeguarding their rights.

References

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--- Note: This article provides a comprehensive overview of the MacArthur Competence Assessment

Tool. For specific assessment protocols or training, consult dedicated professional resources or official manuals.

Question What is the MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool (MacCAT) and its primary use? The MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool (MacCAT) is a structured interview instrument designed to assess an individual's legal competence, particularly their ability to understand, appreciate, and reason about their medical or legal situation. How does the MacCAT evaluate a person's decision-making capacity? The MacCAT evaluates decision-making capacity through three core areas: understanding relevant information, appreciating the situation and consequences, and reasoning about treatment options or legal decisions, providing a comprehensive assessment of competence. What populations are most commonly assessed using the MacCAT? The MacCAT is frequently used to assess individuals with mental health conditions, cognitive impairments, or neurological disorders to determine their competence in medical treatment decisions, legal cases, or consent processes. Are there different versions of the MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool for various contexts? Yes, there are tailored versions of the MacCAT designed for different settings, such as the MacCAT-T for treatment decisions, the MacCAT-CA for capacity to consent to research, and others adapted to specific legal or clinical assessments.

4 What are the advantages of using the MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool in clinical and legal settings? The MacCAT provides a standardized, reliable, and comprehensive approach to assessing competence, reducing subjectivity, and aiding clinicians and legal professionals in making informed decisions about an individual's decision-making capacity.

MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool: An In-Depth Review and Critical Analysis The assessment of a patient's competency to make informed medical decisions is a cornerstone of ethical healthcare practice, legal proceedings, and psychiatric evaluation. Among various instruments developed to evaluate decisional capacity, the MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool (MacCAT) has garnered widespread recognition for its structured, evidence-based approach. Originally designed to assist clinicians in systematically assessing a patient's understanding, appreciation, reasoning, and ability to express a choice concerning treatment options, the MacCAT has become a vital tool in both clinical and forensic settings. This comprehensive review aims to explore the origins, structure, applications, strengths, limitations, and ongoing developments related to the MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool, providing clinicians, researchers, and legal professionals with an authoritative resource on its utilization and utility.

--- **Historical Context and Development of the MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool** The MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool was developed in the early 1990s as part of a broader initiative by the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Mental Health and the Law. Its primary motivation was to bridge the gap between legal standards for competence and the clinical assessment process, providing a standardized, empirically validated instrument. Prior to its development, assessments of decisional capacity often relied heavily on subjective clinical judgment, which could vary significantly between evaluators. Recognizing the need for a more reliable and systematic approach, researchers led by Dr. Marsha M. Linehan and colleagues designed the MacCAT to operationalize key elements of competence, aligning with the functional standards articulated in legal statutes. The initial version, called the MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool for Treatment (MacCAT-T), specifically targeted psychiatric patients facing treatment decisions. Over time, adaptations and extensions have been created for broader contexts, including research consent and legal competency evaluations.

--- **Core Components and Structure of the MacCAT** The MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool is inherently modular, with core domains designed to evaluate distinct facets of a patient's decision-making capacity. The most widely used version, the

MacCAT-T, assesses four primary areas: Macarthur Competence Assessment Tool 5

1. Understanding This component evaluates the patient's ability to comprehend relevant information about their medical condition, proposed treatments, and potential risks and benefits. It involves asking patients to restate information in their own words and to demonstrate grasp of critical facts.
2. Appreciation This domain assesses whether the patient recognizes how the information applies to their own situation. It examines acknowledgment of diagnosis, treatment implications, and personal risks, reflecting insight into their condition.
3. Reasoning Here, the focus is on the patient's capacity to compare options logically, consider consequences, and weigh benefits versus harms. It involves analyzing the patient's reasoning process in choosing a course of action.
4. Expression of a Choice This final domain assesses whether the patient can clearly communicate a consistent decision regarding treatment, and whether the choice aligns with their values and preferences.

Scoring and Interpretation: Each domain is scored based on clinician ratings of patient responses, typically using a semi-structured interview guide and standardized scoring criteria. Scores are often interpreted in relation to normative data, with specific cutoff points indicating potential impairments in competence. The scoring system facilitates objective evaluation and enhances inter-rater reliability.

--- Applications of the MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool The MacCAT has been employed across diverse settings, including:

- Clinical Medical Practice: To determine whether patients possess sufficient decisional capacity to consent to treatment, especially in psychiatric populations, neurocognitive disorders, or complex medical interventions.
- Forensic and Legal Contexts: To assess individuals' competence to stand trial, make testamentary decisions, or participate in research studies, aligning clinical findings with legal standards.
- Research Ethics: To evaluate participants' capacity to provide informed consent, ensuring ethical standards are maintained in research involving vulnerable populations.
- Educational and Training Purposes: As a teaching tool for clinicians and students to understand the multi-faceted nature of competence.

Advantages in Application:

- Standardization reduces subjective bias.
- Empirical scoring enhances objectivity.
- Adaptability to specific contexts (e.g., treatment, research).

Macarthur Competence Assessment Tool 6 Facilitates communication between clinicians and legal professionals.

--- Strengths of the MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool The MacCAT offers several notable strengths that have contributed to its widespread adoption:

- Empirical Foundation: Developed through rigorous research, with validation studies demonstrating reliability and validity across populations.
- Structured Format: Provides a systematic framework that minimizes variability in assessments and improves reproducibility.
- Multidimensional Evaluation: Recognizes that competence is multifaceted, capturing understanding, appreciation, reasoning, and choice expression rather than a unidimensional measure.
- Flexibility: Can be adapted for different populations, settings, and specific decision contexts.
- Educational Utility: Serves as a training tool to enhance clinicians' understanding of decisional capacity.
- Legal Compatibility: Its standardized approach aligns with legal standards for competence, facilitating expert testimony and legal evaluations.

--- Limitations and Critiques of the MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool Despite its strengths, the MacCAT is not without limitations, which warrant careful consideration:

1. Subjectivity in Scoring While structured, some aspects of scoring rely on clinician judgment, which can introduce variability, especially among less experienced evaluators.
2. Cultural and Language Factors The tool was primarily validated in Western populations, and cultural differences in understanding or expressing decision-making may affect its applicability and interpretation.
3. Limited Scope for Emotional and Psychosocial Factors The MacCAT predominantly assesses cognitive aspects of competence; it may

not adequately capture emotional, motivational, or psychosocial influences that impact decision-making. 4. Time and Resource Intensive Comprehensive assessment can require significant clinician time, which may be a barrier in busy clinical environments. MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool 7 5. Not a Standalone Determinant The tool should complement, not replace, clinical judgment and contextual considerations. Over-reliance on scores may oversimplify complex decisions. 6. Variability in Use and Interpretation Different clinicians may interpret responses differently, leading to inconsistent conclusions unless standardized training is provided. --- Recent Advances and Future Directions Recognizing these limitations, researchers and clinicians have pursued various enhancements and adaptations: - Cultural Adaptations: Translation and validation studies in diverse languages and cultural settings aim to improve global applicability. - Digital and Computer-Assisted Versions: Integration with electronic platforms to streamline administration and scoring, and to facilitate remote assessments. - Broader Contexts: Extensions to assess capacity in specific areas such as research consent, financial decision-making, and legal competency. - Incorporation of Emotional and Motivational Factors: Efforts to include measures that evaluate psychosocial influences and emotional states impacting decision-making. - Training and Standardization: Development of training modules and certification programs to improve inter-rater reliability. --- Conclusion: The Role of the MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool in Modern Practice The MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool has established itself as a cornerstone in the systematic evaluation of decisional capacity. Its empirical foundation, structured approach, and adaptability have made it invaluable across clinical, legal, and research domains. However, it is essential to recognize its limitations and to apply it judiciously, supplementing scores with comprehensive clinical judgment and contextual understanding. As healthcare and legal systems increasingly emphasize patient autonomy and informed consent, tools like the MacCAT will continue to evolve—integrating cultural sensitivity, technological advancements, and multidimensional assessments—to better serve diverse populations and complex decision-making scenarios. Ongoing research and refinement will ensure that the MacArthur remains a relevant, reliable, and ethically sound instrument for assessing competence in the years to come. --- References (Note: For the purposes of this review, references to original validation studies, validation in diverse populations, and recent adaptations would be included here, following appropriate academic citation standards.) MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool, MacArthur Competence Assessment, MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool 8 competence evaluation, mental capacity assessment, legal competence tool, clinical competence assessment, decision-making capacity, capacity assessment questionnaire, mental health evaluation, competency measurement

MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool for Treatment (MacCAT-T)MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool for Treatment/ 10 PacMacArthur Competence Assessment Tool for Clinical Research (MacCAT-CR)The MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool-TreatmentCompetence Assessment Tools for Health-System PharmaciesCompetence Assessment Tools for Health-System PharmacistsThe MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool-Criminal AdjudicationEvaluating CompetenciesThe MacArthur Competence Assessment ToolThe Psychology and Law of Criminal Justice ProcessesCultural Competency Assessment ToolCompetence Assessment Tools for Health-System PharmaciesCultural Competence for Health ProfessionalsMacCAT-CAMethods for laparoscopic instrument tracking and motion analysis for objective assessment of surgical technical skillsClinical Evaluations for Juveniles' Competence to Stand TrialAssessing

Communication Competence in Speaking and Listening Skills Diagnostics and Screening Tools Criminal Competency on Trial Evaluating Juveniles' Adjudicative Competence Thomas Grisso Professor of Psychiatry Thomas Grisso Paul S. Appelbaum Thomas Grisso Lee B. Murdaugh Lee B. Murdaugh Thomas Grisso Roger J. R. Levesque British Columbia. Ministry for Children and Families Jane Holstein Juan A. Sánchez-Margallo Thomas Grisso Judith A. Arter Jenny Bimrose Mark C. Bardwell Thomas Grisso

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the macarthur competence assessment tool for treatment maccat t is the product of an 8 year study of patients capacities to make treatment decisions it is a semi structured interview that assists clinicians in assessing a patient s competence to consent to treatment the process provides a patient with information about their medical psychiatric condition the type of treatment being recommended its risks and benefits as well as other possible treatments and their probable consequences during this process the maccat t prompts the clinician to ask questions that assess the patient s understanding appreciation and reasoning regarding treatment decisions the maccat t manual is a large format examiner friendly field manual for conducting actual competency assessments the maccat t record form is well designed for recording rating and summarizing patient responses the training videotape administering the maccat t demonstrates an actual administration of the test with discussion comments and annotations by drs grisso and appelbaum the book assessing competence to consent to treatment describes the place of competence in the doctrine of informed consent analyzes the elements of decision making and shows how assessments of competence to consent to treatment can be conducted within varied general medical and psychiatric treatment settings includes numerous case studies

the maccat cr provides a structured format for capacity assessment that is adaptable to the particulars of any given research project with the introduction of the maccat cr researchers enrolling human participants in their studies have available for the first time a reliable and valid means of assessing their potential subject s capacity to consent to participation the maccat cr can typically be administered in 15 20 minutes beginning with project specific disclosures to potential participants the maccat

cr measures the four generally accepted components of decision making competence understanding appreciation reasoning and the ability to express a choice quantification of subjects responses permits comparisons across subjects and subject groups and allows the maccat cr to be used for not only for screening individual participants but also for conducting research on the characteristics of subject populations and for assessing the effectiveness of interventions designed to increase subjects capacities

a semi structured interview assessing the ability of patients to understand appreciate reason and express their choice

since its original publication competence assessment tools for health system pharmacies has continued to meet the changing needs of pharmacy directors and their staff designed as a complete human resource competence assessment program this benchmark resource ensures pharmacies comply with the competence assessment standards of the joint commission newly updated and revised competence assessment provides practical tools to assess and document an employee s ability to perform assigned duties and meet joint commission human resource requirements save time and increase efficiency with this essential tool that supplements and reinforces staff knowledge in key competency areas

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uses a vignette format and objectively scored questions to standardize the measurement of three competence related abilities understanding reasoning and appreciation the eight understanding and eight reasoning items are based on a brief vignette that describes a hypothetical crime the 16 items query about prosecution of the hypothetical defendant this approach was designed to introduce legal issues in a way that distances the defendant from the specifics of his or her own case the six appreciation items query defendants about their attitudes and beliefs concerning the legal process as it surrounds their own cases norms

are based on the scores of 729 defendants score ranges for three levels of impairment none or minimal mild and clinically significant are provided for each measured ability validated with three groups of criminal defendants with varying competence levels and mental illness treatment histories

this second edition is a restatement of the theory a review of what happened to the field since the theory was first introduced 15 years ago and its application to a new generation of forensic assessment instruments that has evolved in that time p x

psychological science now reveals much about the law s response to crime this is the first text to bridge both fields as it presents psychological research and theory relevant to each phase of criminal justice processes the materials are divided into three parts that follow a comprehensive introduction the introduction analyses the major legal themes and values that guide criminal justice processes and points to the many psychological issues they raise part i examines how the legal system investigates and apprehends criminal suspects topics range from the identification searching and seizing to the questioning of suspects part ii focuses on how the legal system establishes guilt to do so it centres on the process of bargaining and pleading cases assembling juries providing expert witnesses and considering defendants mental states part iii focuses on the disposition of cases namely that part highlights the process of sentencing defendants predicting criminal tendencies treating and controlling offenders and determining eligibility for such extreme punishments as the death penalty the format seeks to give readers a feeling for the entire criminal justice process and for the role psychological science has and can play in it

in recent decades both global migration in general and specifically migration to sweden have increased this development compels the need for delivering healthcare to the increasingly diverse populations in sweden to support health professionals for instance occupational therapists in developing their professional knowledge in encounters with foreign born clients a self rating instrument measuring cultural competence is developed this may contribute to the development of suitable services for foreignborn clients and improve person centered interventions for these clients the general aim of this thesis was to develop an instrument for health professionals by examining psychometric properties and utility of the swedish version of the cultural competence assessment instrument ccai s among occupational therapists the specific aim of study i was to evaluate the content validity and utility of the swedish version of the cultural competence assessment instrument ccai s among occupational therapists the study had a descriptive and explorative design nineteen occupational therapists participated divided into four focus groups qualitative content analysis was used to examine the content validity and utility of the ccai s the specific aim of study ii was to examine the clinical relevance construct validity and reliability of the swedish version of the cultural competence assessment instrument ccai s among swedish occupational therapists the study had a cross sectional design a web based questionnaire was e mailed to a randomised sample of 428 occupational therapists to investigate the construct validity reliability and utility of the ccai s factor analysis was performed as well as descriptive statistics the findings from study i revealed high content validity for all 24 items however six items needed reformulations and exemplifications regarding utility the results showed strong support for ccai s the category interactions with clients showed that the ccai s could be utilised individually for the health professional and create a higher awareness of cultural questions in practice the category workplace and its organisational support displayed potential for use in different workplaces regarding ccai s and

indicated the importance of organisational support for health professionals in the development of cultural competence the findings from study ii regarding construct validity generated a three factor model with the labels openness and awareness workplace support and interaction skills all three factors showed high factor loadings and contained 12 of the 24 original items the cronbach s alpha showed high support for the three factor model concerning utility the participants reported that all 24 items had high clinical relevance in conclusion the findings from the two studies indicated good measurement properties and high clinical relevance for the ccai s this may support the utilisation of ccai s in the swedish context for health professionals for instance occupational therapists the results of the instrument development show that the upcoming published version of the ccai s can be a valuable self assessment tool for health professionals who strive to improve in person centred communication in encounters with foreign born clients ccai s can also be of support for the organisation to serve as a guide for what to focus on to develop cultural competence within the staff altogether this presumably influence the effectiveness of the healthcare and enhance the evidence of interventions for foreign born clients to develop an instrument is an iterative process requiring several evaluations and tests in various settings and populations therefore further psychometric testing and utility studies on the ccai s is crucial

doctoral thesis dissertation from the year 2014 in the subject medicine biomedical engineering grade excellent cum laude language english abstract minimally invasive surgery mis has become in many surgical specialties and procedures the gold standard choice due to its efficiency and benefits towards patient safety however the introduction of laparoscopic surgery has led to the need of developing new surgical skills different to those required for open surgery with a significant learning curve to perform a safe laparoscopic surgery traditional subjective assessment methods of trainees are no longer adequate for surgical training reduced working hours as well as demands from surgeons and associations mean that more objective assessment tools that can accredit surgeons as technically competent are required evidence exists to validate motion analysis for laparoscopic technical skills assessment motion analysis of the laparoscopic instruments seeks to determine aspects that indicate the difference between surgeon s level of surgical dexterity however at the moment there is not an extended method to be used with current available training systems used in training laboratories as well as for the or the purpose of this book is to present the design development and validation of three novel motion analysis methods focused on the use of real laparoscopic instruments during laparoscopic performance these methods are based on computer vision techniques attempting to not interfere with the surgical practice they are introduced in an evolutionary way from methods for exclusive use in a box trainer to solutions with the potential of being used in actual or setting overall this work corroborates the research hypothesis regarding the use of three different video based tracking technologies for motion analysis of laparoscopic instruments the use of instrument motion analysis for mis technical skills assessment and the relationship between motion related assessment metrics and quality of technical performance in laparoscopic training these presented methods provide a tool to objectively assess mis technical performance and a support to train novice surgeons in mis techniques the findings of this work encourage us to continue researching in improving these methods to be introduced as part of an actual laparoscopic training program both inside and outside the or

criminal competency on trial examines the legal standards by which one can stand trial and the psychological instruments by

which one's mental health status is assessed acknowledging that determinations of trial fitness represent the most significant mental health inquiry pursued in the system of criminal law today this book carefully explains and thoroughly reviews the legal and psychological limits of competency to stand trial *est* to highlight these limits authors bardwell and arrigo systematically investigate the controversial and high profile case of colin ferguson mr ferguson was identified as the new york city railway killer who following a competency finding elected to represent himself and was found guilty of all criminal charges the text proposes a series of clear practical and concise justice policy reforms designed to improve how the *est* doctrine is understood and employed by lawyers judges psychologists and other forensic mental health professionals the book concludes by demonstrating where and how these policy recommendations would substantially change the application of the *est* doctrine especially in the case of colin ferguson and with other high stakes defendants including that of theodore kaczynski a k a the una bomber

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