

Evaluation of Health-Related Quality of Life in Cardiac Disease Patients in Tertiary Care Teaching Hospital

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ABSTRACT

Background: Cardiovascular Diseases (CVD) a leading cause of morbidity and mortality globally. This study aimed to assess the demographic profile, major diagnoses, and Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQOL) in CVD patients, while examining the influence of socioeconomic factors, educational background, and social habits. **Materials and Methods:** A cross-sectional study was conducted among 250 CVD patients aged 18 to 92 years. Demographic and clinical data were collected. Socioeconomic status was assessed using the updated Kuppuswamy scale. HRQOL was measured using standard domains and analysed with the chi square test. **Results:** Among the participants, 61.6% were male and 38.4% female, consistent with prior studies indicating higher CVD prevalence in older males. The most common diagnoses were Acute Coronary Syndrome-MI (46%), Unstable Angina (20.8%), and IHD-MI (11.2%). Social habits were 12% (alcohol use), 18.4% (smoking), and 6% (tobacco chewing), with combined habits in 8.8% of patients. HRQOL scores were highest in the Mental Health domain (M=60.65, SD=5.36) and lowest in Role Physical (M=22.50, SD=41.63) and Role Emotional (M=26.80, SD=44.17) domains. Patients with adverse social habits showed lower scores in the Pain and General Health domains. Urban residents and literate individuals generally reported higher HRQOL scores. **Conclusion:** IHD remains the predominant cardiovascular emergency, particularly among older males. Social habits and lower socioeconomic or educational status negatively impact HRQOL. These findings highlight the need for targeted health education, lifestyle interventions, and social support to improve outcomes in CVD patients.

Keywords: Cardiovascular Disease, HRQoL, Ischemic Heart Disease, Myocardial Infarction.

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INTRODUCTION

The cardiac system is made up of the heart and the blood arteries that connect it. Infections and inflammatory illnesses such as endocarditis, rheumatic heart disease, and electrical conduction disorders can all have an impact on this system. There are four major forms of cardiovascular conditions: Coronary Artery Disease, cerebrovascular disease, Peripheral Vascular disease, and aortic atherosclerosis. Chest pain, arm pain, jaw pain, back, unusual exhaustion, dizziness, headache, anxiety, difficulty in breathing, difficulty sleeping, and issues with digestion were all outlined in ACS (Olvera *et al.*, 2025; Jurgens *et al.*, 2022). According to the global burden disease research 2019, 523 million instances of cardiovascular disease, The fatalities was around 8.9 million, Low and middle-income nations are account for around 80% of CVD

related (Sarma *et al.*, 2021). The primary cause of death worldwide and contributor in disability are, namely Ischemic Heart Disease (IHD) and stroke (Roth *et al.*, 2020). One-fifth of all CVD-related fatalities worldwide occur in India, particularly among younger people. Despite the fact that Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) is acknowledged as significant public health concern in India, the population's poor rates of diagnosis, treatment, and adherence to evidence-based treatment guidelines show that access to cardiovascular care is still limited (Shannawaz *et al.*, 2025). Significant improvements in the treatment with heart disease, which has resulted in extension of life expectancy (Höfer *et al.*, 2020). HRQoL, represents a patient's physical, psychological, social, and emotional well-being, is frequently utilized to evaluate a patient's health (Wan *et al.*, 2023). The evaluation of a patient's health status should be complementary to all other standard modalities of assessment and serve as a crucial indicator of health and the quality of care due to the strong correlation between health status and cardiovascular disease and treatment efficacy (Conradie *et al.*, 2022). Numerous tools have been created to measure HRQoL, and some HRQoL guides include population norms and distributions about age, gender, or illness. One of the most popular generic HRQOL assessments for both the general



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public and IHD patients is the Short Form-36 health survey. There eight scales on which the 36 items of the SF-36 are scored. As a crucial component (HRQL) has grown in importance as a health care outcome indicator, particularly for patients with cardiovascular disorders (Huber *et al.*, 20216) patients with CVD, low HRQoL has been demonstrated to predict an increased risk of hospital readmission and death (Phyo *et al.*, 2021).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Site

The research was conducted in Cardiac Department at Vivekananda General Hospital, Hubballi, Karnataka.

Study Design And Data Collection

From October 2024 to March 2025, a cross-sectional observational research was carried out. The sample size was established using a preliminary research. Later that, 250 patients, study employing SF36 standard questionnaire to assess the HRQOL in CVD patients. A set of questions were provided to study subjects and guided to fill the goggle form, the interviewer used the questionnaire to make sure their responses were clear and comprehensive. After completion, subjects were exposed to pharmacist counselling which covered overall information regarding CVD diseases and importance of medication and effect of HRQOL.

Study Period

The study was carried over six months in cardiology department at Vivekananda general hospital, Hubballi, Karnataka.

Sample Size Calculation

Based on the prevalence results published in earlier research, the sample size was estimated to be 250 with a 95% confidence interval and 5% margin error using a conventional formula.

Study Population

- **Criteria for inclusion:** All patients with heart-related issues, individuals over the age of 18, individuals of various sexes, and those with and without concomitant diseases.
- **Exclusion criteria:** Include patients who admitted in cardiology department and vulnerable groups such as children and breastfeeding.

Study Instrument

The SF-36 health survey is a standardized method for evaluating quality of life. The validated regional version could not be evaluated at time of study, it was translated into kannada and explained to the participants to ensure understanding. SF36 was widely validated and dependable. Its 36 multiple-choice questions

measure eight health Domains: physical functioning (10), Role physical (04), pain (02), general health (05), energy and vitality (04), social functioning (02s), role emotional (03), and mental health (05 items). By converting the ratings to a 0-100 scale, we can quantify the scales. Better health is reflected by higher values on each health domain (Chatzinikolaou *et al.*, 2021).

Statistical Analysis

The statistics were performed using version 29.0 of the SPSS. The mean and standard deviation were used to show continuous variables, whereas numbers and percentages were used to show categorical data. The Chi Square and Mann Whitney U tests were used to analyse HRQOL.

RESULTS

Table 1 summarizes the demographics characteristics of research subjects. Out of the 250 patients 154 (62%) were male and 96 (38%) were female, suggesting a higher incidence of CVDIs in the population was males. Highest number of patients from 48-62 years age group 113 (45%) followed by 63-77 years: 79 (32%), 33-47 years: 35 (14%), 78-92 years: 17(7%), 18-32 years: 6 (2%). Around 137 (55%) patients were from urban areas and 113 (45%) from rural, educational background of the patients was vary, with 210(86%) being educated and 40 (16%) uneducated, 29% (73) of the participants were primary school, 32% (79) of the participants were middle school, 6% (15) of the subjects were high school, 12% (30) of the participants were intermediate, 3% (8) of the subjects were graduate and 2% (5) of the participants were professional degree. Comorbidities were prevalent among the patients, 78 (31%) had hypertension, and 63 (25%) had type 2 diabetes mellitus and IHD 33(13%). There were 120 subjects have a history of social habits followed by 130(52%) Among 18%(*n*=46) of participants having smoking habit, 12% (*n*=30) of the participants having alcoholic habit, 6% (*n*=15) of the participants having tobacco chewing habit, 9% (*n*=22) of the participants having both smoking and alcohol usage habit. In the research sample the diagnosis commonly patient had ACS MI 115 (46%), 52(20.80%) subject had IHD-Unstable angina, 28 (11.20%) subjects had a IHD-MI, 16 (6.40%) had a IHD followed by others disease like unstable angina, rheumatic heart disease, dilated cardiomyopathy, pulmonary thromboembolism, AV dissociation, ACS-Cardiogenic Shock, ACS-Wellens type A&B, HTN, DM, COPD, severe calcified AS. Various laboratory tests were analyzed (LFT, RFT, Lipid profile test, electrolytes and blood reports). Among 66 (26%) subjects were showed LFT abnormalities, 28 (11%) subjects were showed RFT abnormalities, 5 (2%) subjects were showed lipid profile abnormalities, 42 (17%) subjects were showed electrolytes abnormalities, 20 (8%) subjects were showed sugar level imbalance and 10 (4%) subjects were showed RBC impairment in study population Table 1.

Distribution of Mean Scores and Standard Deviations across Quality of Life Domains

Assessing HRQOL using SF-36 questionnaire, Analysis of Mean and standard deviation of HRQOL in study population. In HRQOL there are 8 domains. Physical 53.80 ± 38.78 , Role physical 22.50 ± 41.63 , pain 50.52 ± 17.07 , general health 55.04 ± 21.10 , social functioning 49.35 ± 8.39 , vitality 55.64 ± 21.18 , role emotional 26.80 ± 44.17 , mental health 60.65 ± 5.36 . The role physical and emotional have low mean suggesting the heterogeneous responses and limitation in daily activities some have no limitation. As present in Figure 1.

Association between Education, Gender, and HRQOL

Among the domains, the illiterate's vitality showed the greatest average of 56.87 ± 18.06 , while their role physical showed the lowest average of 17.50 ± 38.48 . HRQOL related to Gender the average mental health score for males is 60.70 ± 5.29 , whereas the average physical score for women is 14.73 ± 35.63 . The chi square test is employed in related to both categories to determine significance when values <0.001 of p -value <0.05 is presented in Table 2.

Association of Socioeconomic Class with HRQOL Domains

In the eight dimensions, the upper middle class's general health and physical functioning have the greatest average (57.33 ± 22.69) (53.33 ± 37.00) indicating better health status, while the lower middle class's role physical and role emotional has the lowest average (21.31 ± 41.11) (26.22 ± 44.16). It is reflecting greater limitation in daily activities due to physical and emotional problems some had no limitation indicates substantial variability. Chi square tests and kruskal wallis tests have been used to determine significance when values <0.001 of p -value as presented in Table 3.

Association between Age Groups and HRQOL Domains

In Table 4, Ages 18 to 32 had the greatest average score in the eight categories (62.50 ± 42.98), while ages 48 to 62 obtained the lowest score (18.14 ± 38.4). When social functioning exhibits significance having a p -value less than 0.05, was determined by chi square test. As presented in Table 4.

DISCUSSION

Our study included 250 patients with the age group ranging from 18 to 92 years, in that 154 (61.6%) were male and 96 (38.4%) were female. There were 150 patients in a research by Reshma *et al.* (2020), of whom 66% were men, 44% were women, and 24% were older than 60. The results of our study with regarding patient population and in consistence found to be similar with the previous study indicating that male with age of 60-69 were more prone to have CVD comparative to that of female. Our major diagnosis included ACS-Myocardial infraction (46%), IHD-Unstable angina (20.80%), ischemic heart disease-MI (11.20%) and Rheumatic heart disease (2.80%). where a study in Abdelrahman *et al.* (2023) showed NSTEMI (28.37%) and STEMI (26.52%) as a major diagnosis. A similar finding was also seen were CHF (44.4%) and HTN (43.1). As to the findings of Tsate *et al.* (2024), CAD was the second most prevalent cardiovascular emergency, behind ischemic heart disease. In this study, we assessed HRQOL using Mann Whitney U Test and its determinants to find determine how patients' quality of life is affected. The updated Kuppusswamy scale was used to determine the socioeconomic class of the patients and social habits, whether the patients lived in an urban or rural area, and level of education. In our study sample, the proportion of people from urban and rural areas are 137 (54.80%) and 113 (45.20%) respectively. Of the subjects, ($n=368$) were from urban and ($n=332$) were from rural according to study conducted by Jafar *et al.* (2019). Various social

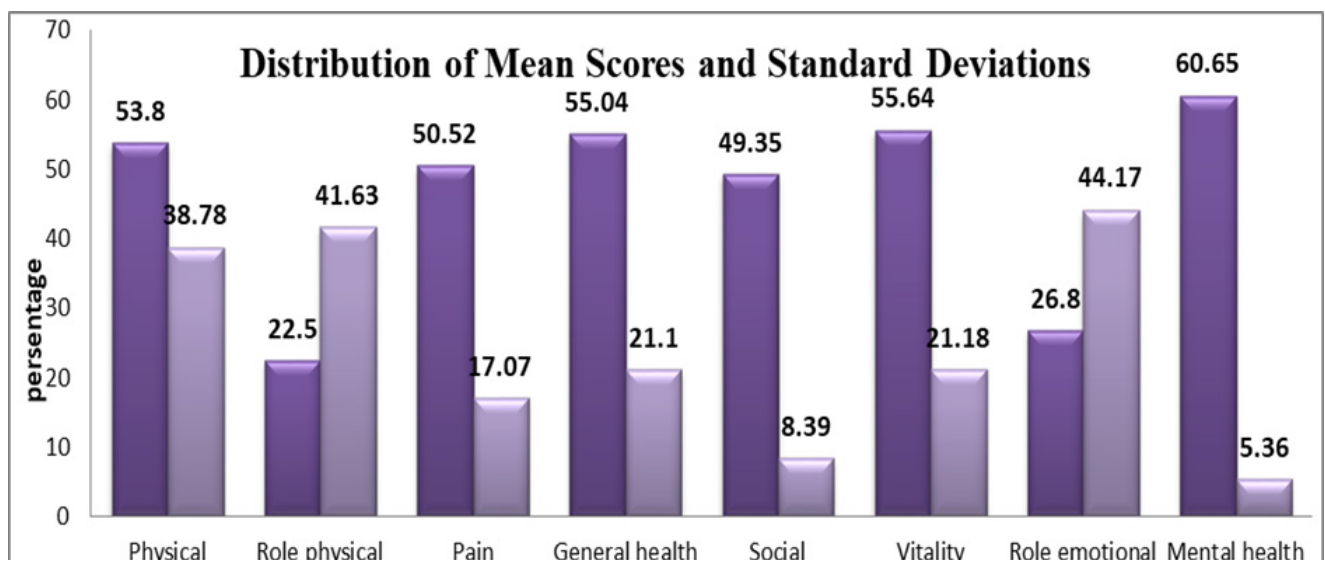


Figure 1: Distribution of mean scores and SD.

Table 1: Distribution of Study Participants According to Demographic Characteristics (N=250).

Sl. No.	Demographics	Variables	N (250)	Percentage %
1.	Gender	Male	154	62%
		Female	96	38%
2.	Age	18-32	6	2%
		33-47	35	14%
		48-62	113	45%
		63-77	79	32%
		78-92	17	7%
3.	Social habits	No	130	52%
		Yes	120	48%
		Smoking	46	18%
		Alcoholic	30	12%
		Tobacco	15	6%
		Smoking and alcoholic	22	9%
		Tobacco and smoking	2	1%
		Tobacco and alcoholic	2	1%
		Smoking and alcoholic and tobacco	3	1%
4.	Residence	Urban	137	55%
		Rural	113	45%
5.	Education	Illiterate	40	16%
		Literate	210	84%
6.	Qualification	Illiterate	40	16%
		Primary school	73	29%
		Middle school	79	32%
		High school	15	6%
		Intermediate	30	12%
		Graduate	8	2%
		Professional degree	5	2%
7.	Socio-economic Status	Upper class	5	2%
		Upper middle class	30	12%
		Lower middle class	121	37%
		Upper lower class	92	49%
		Lower class		1%
8.	Diagnosis	IHD		7
		IHD-Unstable angina		5
		IHD-MI		1

habits were noticed, Among the 250 individuals, 30 (12%) drank alcohol, and 46 (18.4%) reported smoking, 15 participants (6%), chewed tobacco. According to (Ding *et al.*, 2021) maximum 22% Relative Risk (RR) reduction at about 8 g/day for cardiovascular mortality and 18% at 7 g/day for all-cause mortality among patients with Myocardial Infarction (MI), angina, compared to non-drinkers, Patients having CVD are more vulnerable to recurrent cardiovascular events, which can seriously impair their

quality of life. According to Kershaw and colleagues' examination of Dutch participants, smoking behavior was responsible for over 27% of the correlation between education and coronary heart disease (Carter *et al.*, 2019).

The Kuppuswamy scale, showed that the lower-middle class included the largest percentage of participants 48.4%, while the lower class had the lowest representation. Regarding, (HRQOL) domains study, the Mental Health domain had the highest mean

score (M=60.65, SD=5.36), followed by the Vitality domain (M=55.64, SD=21.18) and the General Health domain (M=55.04, SD=21.10). Role Emotional (M=26.80, SD=44.17) and Role Physical (M=22.50, SD=41.63) had the lowest scores, suggesting more disability in these domains, concluded that there was a correlation between emotional vitality and CHD based on their emotional vitality's RR of 0.68 for CHD lowering the impact in patients with CVD by 27%. In general, people with social habits had slightly lower mean scores in domains like Pain (M=49.50, SD=16.89) and General Health (M=52.46, SD=20.31) than people without social habits (Pain: M=52.46, SD=17.13; General Health: M=57.42, SD=21.62) when HRQOL was examined in

relation to social habits. Remarkably, there was little difference in the Mental Health category between those who had social habits (M=61.07, SD=5.02) and those who did not (M=60.28, SD=5.66). These findings are consistent with those of BMC publication the relationship between mental HR-QoL and social /emotional loneliness. Older adults who are lonely score 9.73 points lower on the MCS-12 than those who are not, and loneliness was linked to worse mental HR-QoL ($p < 0.001$) (Tan *et al.*, 2020). The current study has several limitations, including single center that restricts generalizability a limited sample size in socioeconomic subgroups, A skewed distribution that affects mean values and high variability that may have impact on QOL outcomes.

Table 2: Association between Education, Gender, and HRQOL.

Domains	Characteristics		N	Mean	Standard deviation	Significance	Correlation
Physical	Education	Illiterate	40	53.2500	37.27153	0.001*	0.000
		Literate	210	53.9048	39.15056		
	Gender	Female	96	58.7368	37.04489	0.230	0.231
		Male	154	50.7792	39.75468		
Role physical	Education	Illiterate	40	17.5000	38.48076	0.001*	0.001
		Literate	210	23.4524	42.22417		
	Gender	Female	96	14.7368	35.63533	0.016*	0.016
		Male	154	27.4351	44.44368		
Pain	Education	Illiterate	40	53.5000	15.61557	0.001*	0.000
		Literate	210	49.9524	17.32044		
	Gender	Female	96	47.8947	17.00405	0.050*	0.050
		Male	154	52.2078	17.00622		
General health	Education	Illiterate	40	56.2500	19.50509	0.001*	0.000
		Literate	210	54.8095	21.43672		
	Gender	Female	96	50.8947	20.52475	0.023*	0.023
		Male	154	57.5325	21.18427		
Social functioning	Education	Illiterate	40	50.3125	8.24675	0.316	0.317
		Literate	210	49.1667	8.43045		
	Gender	Female	96	48.2895	7.86575	0.088	0.089
		Male	154	50.0812	8.63389		
Vitality	Education	Illiterate	40	56.8750	18.06993	0.001*	0.000
		Literate	210	55.4048	21.76325		
	Gender	Female	96	51.2105	20.90653	0.004*	0.004
		Male	154	58.2792	21.01493		
Role emotional	Education	Illiterate	40	27.5000	45.22026	0.001*	0.001
		Literate	210	26.6667	44.08681		
	Gender	Female	96	16.8421	37.62251	0.004*	0.003
		Male	154	33.1169	46.90830		
Mental health	Education	Illiterate	40	60.4000	4.13118	0.258	0.259
		Literate	210	60.7048	5.57837		
	Gender	Female	96	60.6316	5.51411	0.768	0.768
		Male	154	60.7013	5.29660		

Table 3: Association of Socioeconomic Class with HRQOL Domains.

Domains	Socio-economic class	N	Mean	Standard deviation	Significance	Correlation
Physical	Lower class	2	50.0000	70.71068	0.001*	0.000
	Lower middle class	122	21.3115	41.11968		
	Upper class	5	48.0000	48.55409		
	Upper lower class	91	53.5714	39.31557		
	Upper middle class	30	53.3333	37.00730		
Role physical	Lower class	2	50.0000	70.71068	0.001*	0.000
	Lower middle class	122	21.3115	41.11968		
	Upper class	5	40.0000	54.77226		
	Upper lower class	91	22.8022	41.94049		
	Upper middle class	30	21.6667	40.86001		
Pain	Lower class	2	55.0000	21.21320	0.001*	0.000
	Lower middle class	122	49.0984	17.00773		
	Upper class	5	54.0000	26.07681		
	Upper lower class	91	51.0989	15.45248		
	Upper middle class	30	53.6667	20.59182		
General health	Lower class	2	55.0000	21.21320	0.001*	0.000
	Lower middle class	122	53.2377	20.85885		
	Upper class	5	57.0000	27.97320		
	Upper lower class	91	56.5934	20.81505		
	Upper middle class	30	57.3333	22.69488		
Social functioning	Lower class	2	56.2500	8.83883	0.766	0.835
	Lower middle class	122	48.9754	8.44130		
	Upper class	5	50.0000	8.83883		
	Upper lower class	91	49.1758	8.49881		
	Upper middle class	30	50.8333	7.99605		
Vitality	Lower class	2	47.5000	31.81981	0.001*	0.000
	Lower middle class	122	48.9754	8.44130		
	Upper class	5	57.0000	25.39685		
	Upper lower class	91	56.0440	21.16754		
	Upper middle class	30	56.1667	24.83335		
Role emotional	Lower class	2	50.0000	70.71068	0.001*	0.000
	Lower middle class	122	26.2295	44.16962		
	Upper class	5	40.0000	54.77226		
	Upper lower class	91	27.1062	44.42002		
	Upper middle class	30	24.4444	42.82490		
Mental health	Lower class	2	62.0000	2.82843	0.391	0.412
	Lower middle class	122	60.8525	5.14849		
	Upper class	5	56.0000	9.38083		
	Upper lower class	91	60.1319	5.41440		
	Upper middle class	30	62.1333	5.11747		

Table 4: Association between Age Groups and HRQOL Domains.

Domains	Age	N	Mean	Standard deviation	Significance	Correlation
Physical	18-32	6	62.5000	42.98255	0.503	0.311
	33-47	35	57.1429	38.10368		
	48-62	113	54.1150	37.14853		
	63-77	79	54.4937	41.11113		
	78-92	17	38.5294	39.28123		
Role physical	18-32	6	29.1667	45.87120	0.011*	0.228
	33-47	35	22.8571	42.60430		
	48-62	113	18.1416	38.41848		
	63-77	79	24.0506	43.01219		
	78-92	17	41.1765	50.72997		
Pain	18-32	6	48.3333	21.36976	0.913	0.567
	33-47	35	50.0000	15.71810		
	48-62	113	50.7965	16.48276		
	63-77	79	50.2532	19.41284		
	78-92	17	51.7647	11.31111		
General health	18-32	6	46.6667	30.60501	0.448	0.263
	33-47	35	54.2857	19.37034		
	48-62	113	55.0000	20.84167		
	63-77	79	55.6962	22.06828		
	78-92	17	56.7647	19.91711		
Social functioning	18-32	6	45.8333	15.13825	0.031*	0.054
	33-47	35	48.5714	8.45154		
	48-62	113	50.6637	8.15597		
	63-77	79	48.4177	7.84646		
	78-92	17	47.7941	9.09509		
Vitality	18-32	6	45.8333	29.22613	0.503	0.158
	33-47	35	55.0000	20.14652		
	48-62	113	55.4425	20.12858		
	63-77	79	55.6329	22.59406		
	78-92	17	61.7647	21.35571		

CONCLUSION

The study, which was conducted out on 250 cardiac inpatients at Vivekananda general hospital in hubballi, provides important information regarding the clinical, social and demographic characteristics. Male patients between the ages of 50-69 made up the majority, and most of them from urban areas. According to the kuppuswamy scale, a sizable section of the population was in the lower middle socioeconomic level. A comprehensive understanding of patient well-being was made possible by the analysis of HRQOL. Physical and emotional role limits were severely compromised, indicating areas that require focused care, even though categories like mental health and vitality displayed

somewhat higher scores. The significance of tailored care techniques is further shown by the correlation between HRQOL and sociodemographic characteristics, educational attainment, place of residence, and socioeconomic position. Furthermore, improving long-term outcomes for patients with CVD requires addressing discrepancies in adherence and HRQOL as well as incorporating sociodemographic aspects into care regimens. According to these findings, hospitals should implement pharmaceutical care models that prioritize patient-centered, methods of treating cardiovascular disease.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

ETHICS STATEMENT

The written informed consent was taken from each subject, the KLE College of Pharmacy Ethical committee gave approval to study (IEC reference code: KLECOPH/IEC/2024-25/02).

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