

Mean Platelet Volume, Neutrophil Lymphocyte Ratio and Platelet Lymphocyte Ratio to Predict Complications During Postoperative Recovery of High Risk Surgical Patients

Postoperatif Yoğun Bakım Ünitesinde Takip Edilen Olgularda Komplikasyon Gelişimi ile Kan Parametreleri Arasındaki İlişkinin Değerlendirilmesi

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Abstract

Objective: This study sought to define the correlation between the occurrence of the complications and certain blood parameters in high risk surgical patients who were monitored for 24 hours in the intensive care unit postoperatively.

Method: Two hundred-fifty seven cases (126 females 131 males; mean age 42.18±8.54 years; range 19-73 years) who were operated on in our hospital and followed up in the intensive care unit for 24 hours were included in this study. The files of all cases included demographic characteristics, erythrocyte count (RBC), leukocyte count (WBC), platelet count (PLT), mean platelet volume (MPV), neutrophil, lymphocyte, neutrophil/lymphocyte ratio (NLR), platelet/lymphocyte ratio (PLR), serum blood urea nitrogen (BUN) and creatinine values. Group A consisted of cases that did not develop complications in the first 24 hours, and group B consisted of cases that developed complications in the first 24 hours postoperatively. The blood hemogram parameters RBC, WBC, PLT, MPV, NLO, PLO, and the biochemistry parameters BUN and creatinine were compared between the groups.

Öz

Amaç: Bu çalışmada, elektif şartlarda opere edilen ve postoperatif 24 saat boyunca yoğun bakım ünitesinde takip edilen olgularda komplikasyon gelişimi ile kan parametreleri arasındaki ilişki araştırıldı.

Yöntem: Bu çalışmaya, hastanemizde ameliyat edilip, 24 saat postoperatif yoğun bakımda takip edilen 257 olgu (126 kadın 131 erkek; ortalama yaş 42,18±8,54 yıl; aralık 19-73 yıl) dahil edildi. Tüm olguların dosyaları demografik özellikleri, eritrosit sayısı (RBC), lökosit sayısı (WBC), trombosit sayısı (PLT), ortalama trombosit hacmi (MPV), nötrofil, lenfosit, nötrofil/lenfosit oranı (NLO), trombosit/lenfosit oranı (PLO), serum kan üre azotu (BUN) ve kreatinin değerleri açısından değerlendirildi. Grup A postoperatif ilk 24 saatte komplikasyon gelişmeyen olgulardan, grup B postoperatif ilk 24 saatte komplikasyon gelişen olgulardan oluşmakta idi. Gruplar arasında kan hemogram parametrelerinden RBC, WBC, PLT, MPV, NLO, PLO, biyokimya parametrelerinden BUN ve kreatinin değerleri karşılaştırıldı.

Bulgular: Grup B'de preoperatif MPV değeri ve postoperatif MPV değeri grup A'dan anlamlı olarak daha yüksekti (p-değerleri sırasıyla 0,038 ve



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Abstract

Results: Preoperative MPV value and postoperative MPV value were significantly higher in group B than group A (p-values 0.038 and 0.045, respectively). In groups A and B, the postoperative MPV value increased significantly compared to the preoperative period (p=0.032, p=0.000, respectively). Preoperative PLR and postoperative PLR values did not differ significantly in groups A and B (p=0.101 and p=0.458, respectively). The postoperative PLR value increased significantly in groups A and B compared to the preoperative period (p=0.000 and p=0.047, respectively). Preoperative and postoperative NLR values in group B were significantly higher than group A (p=0.006 and p=0.025 respectively). In groups A and B, the postoperative NLR value increased significantly compared to the preoperative period (p=0.000 and p=0.006, respectively).

Conclusion: In this study, the cases that developed complications had more significant increases in their MPV, NLR, and PLR values during the postoperative period than their counterparts who experienced no complications.

Keywords: ASA-3 cases, complication, intensive care, mean platelet volume, neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio, platelet-lymphocyte ratio

Öz

0,045). Grup A ve B'de postoperatif MPV değeri preoperatif döneme göre anlamlı artış göstermiştir (sırasıyla p=0,032, p=0,000). Grup A ve B'de preoperatif PLO değeri ve postoperatif PLO değeri anlamlı farklılık göstermemiştir (sırasıyla p=0,101 ve p=0,458). Grup A ve B'de postoperatif PLO değeri preoperatif döneme göre anlamlı artış göstermiştir (sırasıyla p=0,000 ve p=0,047) grup B'de preoperatif ve postoperatif NLO değeri grup A'dan anlamlı olarak daha yüksekti (sırasıyla p=0,006 ve p=0,025). Grup A ve B'de postoperatif NLO değeri preoperatif döneme göre anlamlı artış göstermiştir (sırasıyla p=0,000 ve p=0,006).

Sonuç: Bu çalışmada, komplikasyon gelişen olgularda MPV, NLO ve PLO değerlerinin postoperatif dönemde daha fazla arttığı izlendi. MPV, NLO ve PLO gibi basit, hızlı ve ucuz bir teknikle yoğun bakım ünitesinde takip edilen olgularda gelişebilecek komplikasyonlar hakkında öngörü sağlanması, şüphesiz mortalite oranını azaltacaktır.

Anahtar kelimeler: ASA-3 hastalar, komplikasyon, nötrofil/lenfosit oranı, ortalama trombosit hacmi, trombosit/lenfosit oranı, yoğun bakım

Introduction

Intensive care units (ICU) are capable of administering treatments, where patients are applied close observation and rapid monitoring for life-threatening organ failure that may occur after surgery (1). It is recommended that cases with cardiac, respiratory, and neurological risk factors are monitored in ICUs even if complications do not occur postoperatively (2). Both the increased need for ICU beds and the rising population pose a significant healthcare problem worldwide. The relatively low number of beds and increasing demands have made the more effective use of ICU space necessary (3). Therefore, a rapid and cost-effective screening method for patients at higher risk of complications is needed to make the best use of ICU availability.

Technological and scientific advancements have contributed to the implementation of minimally invasive surgical methods. Despite this progress in alternative ways for major surgical operations, the complications of these surgeries continue to be significant. Although complication rates are impacted by both endogenous and exogenous factors, such as advanced age, gender, smoking, hypercholesterolemia, diabetes mellitus, and hypertension, the complications from these factors only explain a portion of the total complications observed (4,5). Various risk factors have been investigated to aid in predicting the probability of complications linked to surgical procedures.

Current research indicates that any variation in specific blood parameters impacts the complication occurrence and mortality of various diseases. Many studies in the literature have evaluated the correlation between mortality and blood parameters of cases monitored in the ICU (5-8). However, few have assessed the relationship between the occurrence of complications and changes in blood parameters for patients followed in the ICU. Therefore, this study sought to define the correlation between occurrence of the complications and certain blood parameters in high risk surgical patients who had undergone elective surgery and were monitored for 24 hours in the ICU postoperatively.

Materials and Methods

Approval for the study was granted by the Hospital Ethics Committee (University of Health Sciences Turkey, İstanbul Bakırköy Dr. Sadi Konuk Training and Research Hospital Ethics Committee no: 2017-154). A list was drawn up in the preoperative assessment of all patients classified as American Society of Anesthesiologists classification 3-4, who might require postoperative intensive care. They were then admitted and followed up in the ICU after elective otolaryngology, general surgery, orthopedic, thoracic, brain, and urology operations between June 2016 and June 2017. This study was completed under the Declaration of Helsinki principles and best clinical practice guidelines. A retrospective review was made of collected data of the patients who underwent elective surgery and were treated at least for 24 hours in the ICU. The medical

charts for all these patients were reviewed. Data were collected by a researcher using a standardized case report form, including the hemogram and biochemistry values checked in the preoperative anesthesia outpatient clinic (or preoperatively if the anesthesia outpatient clinic duration has been prolonged) and the day after the postoperative surgery, since there were elective cases. The data recorded included hemodynamics heart rate, systolic blood pressure, diastolic blood pressure, and mean blood pressure, oxygen saturation measured via pulse oximetry, duration of mechanical ventilation, and length of stay in the ICU.

The demographic information of the patients was retrieved from the hospital records system.

The study included cases aged ≥ 18 years, operated on under elective conditions, were monitored for 24 hours or more in the ICU postoperatively and were discharged while being stable.

Considering the exclusion criteria, cases aged < 18 years, those who died, underwent emergency surgery, had a history of operation, and had any hematological disease were excluded from the study.

The files of all cases were assessed in terms of demographic characteristics, erythrocyte count (RBC), leukocyte count (WBC), platelet count (PLT), mean platelet volume (MPV), neutrophil count, lymphocyte count, neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio (NLR), platelet-lymphocyte ratio (PLR), BUN and serum creatinine values. The values were recorded preoperatively and 24 hours after surgery for all the cases in the study.

The cases were separated into two groups considering the occurrence of complications in the first 24 hours postoperatively. Group A comprised of cases who did not have any complications, and group B involved cases that developed complications in the first 24 hours postoperatively.

Postoperative complications that were accepted were as follows;

- Cardiac complications; ventricular tachycardia, angina, atrial fibrillation (AF), myocardial infarction (MI),
- Pulmonary complications; pneumonia, pneumothorax, pulmonary embolism, pleural effusion
- Neurological complications; stroke, cerebrovascular ischemia, hemorrhage, transient ischemic attack
- Renal complications; acute renal failure (accepted as serum creatinine values > 2.0 mg/dL or 50% increase

compared to preoperative values) and electrolyte disorder require hemodialysis.

- Infection complications; sepsis, systemic inflammatory response syndrome, deep or superficial sternal tissue infections.

The groups were compared in terms of the blood parameters of RBC, WBC, PLT, MPV, NLR, PLR, BUN, and creatinine values.

Statistical Analysis

Data obtained in the study were analyzed statistically using NCSS 2007 software (Number Cruncher Statistical System, Kaysville, Utah, USA). Descriptive statistics were stated as mean, standard deviation, median, minimum and maximum values, or frequency and percentage. Independent quantitative data were analyzed with the Independent Samples t-test and Mann-Whitney U test. Dependent quantitative data were analyzed using the Friedman test and Wilcoxon test. In the analysis of independent qualitative data, the chi-square test was applied. A value of $p < 0.05$ was accepted as statistically significant.

Results

Patient characteristics: This study included 257 cases (126 female, 131 male) followed up after elective surgeries for 48 hours in the ICU. The demographic characteristics of the cases included in the study are given in Table 1. Surgery types and anesthesia data are summarized in Table 2.

Clinical outcomes: In group B (46 patients), the preoperative and postoperative RBC values were significantly lower compared to those of group A (211 patients) ($p=0.006$, $p=0.002$, respectively). There was a significant fall in postoperative RBC values in both groups compared to the preoperative values (group A: $p=0.000$, group B: $p=0.000$).

Table 1. Demographic data of the patients

	Group A (n=211)	Group B (n=46)
Age (years)	40.46 \pm 12.40 (19-68)	46.28 \pm 15.18 (30-73)
Male (n)	118 (55.92%)	24 (52.18%)
Female (n)	93 (44.08%)	22 (47.82%)
Complications	None	Cardiac: 17 (36.96%) Infection: 11 (23.91%) Pulmonary: 11 (23.91%) Neurological: 6 (13.04%) Renal: 1 (2.18%)

Table 2. Surgery types and anesthesia data of patients

Otolaryngological operations (n=63)

- Transoral robotic surgery for obstructive sleep apnea syndrome (16)
- Uvulopalatopharyngoplasty (21)
- Superficial parotidectomy (11)
- Total parotidectomy (9)
- Tympanomastoidectomy (5)

Urology operations (n=38)

- Transurethral resection of the prostate (18)
- Robotic prostatectomy (12)
- Partial nephrectomy (8)

Thoracic surgery (n=27)

- Lung cancer surgery (13)
- Surgery for chest wall tumors (6)
- Surgery for lung and respiratory infection (8)

General surgery operations (n=56)

- Colorectal surgeries (26)
- Total thyroidectomy (8)
- Bariatric surgery (22)

Orthopedic operations (n=35)

- Knee, elbow, hip, shoulder, foot and ankle (10)
- Multipl injuries (25)

Brain operations (n=37)

- Brain tumors (22)
- Subarachnoid hemorrhage (15)

There were no significant differences in preoperative and postoperative WBC values in groups A and B ($p>0.05$). The postoperative WBC amount was significantly increased compared to the preoperative values in group A and B ($p=0.000$, $p=0.030$, respectively).

In groups A and B, there was no significant difference in preoperative and postoperative PLT values ($p>0.05$). The postoperative PLT values in group A and B were significantly lower compared to the preoperative value ($p=0.000$, $p=0.005$, respectively).

The preoperative and postoperative MPV values in group B were significantly higher than those of group A ($p=0.038$, $p=0.045$, respectively). In group B, the postoperative MPV value was significantly increased compared to the preoperative value ($p=0.032$). The postoperative MPV value in group A was also significantly increased compared to the preoperative value ($p=0.000$).

In group B, the preoperative neutrophil value was significantly higher than that of group A ($p=0.020$). In groups A and B, the postoperative neutrophil values were not significantly different ($p>0.005$). The postoperative neutrophil values in groups A and B were significantly increased compared to the preoperative values ($p=0.000$ for both).

In group B, the preoperative lymphocyte and postoperative lymphocyte values were significantly lower than those of group A ($p=0.005$, $p=0.018$, respectively). The postoperative lymphocyte values in groups A and B fell significantly compared to the preoperative values ($p<0.05$ for both).

In groups A and B, the preoperative BUN values did not significantly differ ($p>0.005$). In group B, the postoperative BUN value was significantly higher than that of group A

($p=0.006$). The postoperative BUN value in group B was not significantly different from the preoperative value ($p>0.005$). The postoperative BUN value in group A was significantly increased compared to the preoperative value ($p=0.012$).

In groups A and B, the preoperative creatinine values were not significantly different ($p>0.005$). The postoperative creatinine value in group B was significantly higher compared to that of group A ($p=0.026$). In group B, the postoperative creatinine value showed a significant increase compared to the preoperative value ($p=0.047$). The postoperative creatinine value in group A was not significantly increased than the preoperative value ($p>0.005$).

No significant differences were determined between groups A and B regarding preoperative and postoperative PLR values ($p=0.101$ and $p=0.458$, respectively). The postoperative PLR values in groups A and B were significantly increased compared to the preoperative values ($p=0.000$ and $p=0.047$, respectively).

In group B, the preoperative and postoperative NLR values were significantly higher compared to those of group A ($p=0.006$ and $p=0.025$, respectively). The postoperative NLR values in groups A and B were significantly increased compared to the preoperative values ($p=0.000$ and $p=0.006$, respectively) (Table 3).

Discussion

In this retrospective study, the correlation was evaluated between complication occurrence and blood parameters of high risk patients operated under elective conditions and monitored for 24 hours postoperatively in the ICU.

Table 3. Comparison of preoperative and postoperative blood values in the groups

	Group A		Group B		p	
	Mean ± SD	Median	Mean ± SD	Median		
RBC (10⁶/μL)						
Preoperative	4.4±0.9	4.6	4.1±0.7	4.2	0.006	m
Postoperative	3.9±0.8	3.9	3.5±0.7	3.6	0.002	m
Variation p	0.000	w	0.000	w		
WBC (10³/μL)						
Preoperative	9.9±4.4	9.0	11.8±6.5	10.5	0.111	m
Postoperative	12.5±5.0	12.3	14.4±9.1	12.2	0.487	m
Variation p	0.000	w	0.030	w		
PLT (10³/μL)						
Preoperative	244.9±99.1	234.4	241.7±134.8	216.1	0.207	m
Postoperative	215.7±95.4	206.4	214.3±140.9	187.0	0.169	m
Variation p	0.000	w	0.005	w		
MPV (fL)						
Preoperative	8.0±1.5	7.7	8.5±1.6	8.2	0.038	m
Postoperative	8.3±1.7	8.0	8.8±1.7	8.6	0.045	m
Variation p	0.000	w	0.032	w		
Neutrophil (%)						
Preoperative	66.4±15.5	66.3	72.1±14.2	73.4	0.020	m
Postoperative	80.2±11.6	82.9	83.2±6.7	84.1	0.186	m
Variation p	0.000	w	0.000	w		
Lymphocyte (%)						
Preoperative	22.5±12.8	22.3	16.7±11.1	15.3	0.005	m
Postoperative	11.6±9.0	9.6	10.0±11.1	7.2	0.018	m
Variation p	0.000	w	0.001	w		
BUN (mg/dL)						
Preoperative	42.8±30.2	34.0	50.1±33.9	38.5	0.122	m
Postoperative	42.7±29.9	34.0	58.7±37.7	45.0	0.006	m
Variation p	0.550	w	0.012	w		
Creatinine (mg/dL)						
Preoperative	1.1±1.0	0.9	1.1±0.6	1.0	0.402	m
Postoperative	1.3±1.4	0.8	1.4±1.0	1.0	0.026	m
Variation p	0.412	w	0.047	w		
PLT/lymphocyte (%)						
Preoperative	18.8±21.8	10.5	28.6±37.3	12.1	0.101	m
Postoperative	27.9±29.7	20.7	36.4±42.3	23.5	0.458	m
Variation p	0.000	w	0.047	w		
Neutrophil/lymphocyte (%)						
Preoperative	5.8±7.9	2.9	8.8±8.8	4.4	0.006	m
Postoperative	10.7±8.7	8.6	13.3±9.3	11.9	0.025	m
Variation p	0.000		0.006			

SD: Standard deviation, BUN: Blood urea nitrogen, PLT: Platelet count, MPV: Mean platelet volume, WBC: Leukocyte count, RBC: Erythrocyte count
Statistically significant values were shown as bold characters

In the cases with complications, the blood parameters of MPV, NLR, and PLR were higher in the postoperative period. The elevation of MPV, NLR, and PLR, especially in cases with complications, showed the role of the inflammatory response in the occurrence of complications.

ICUs are the units where cases are closely monitored for surgical complications. Knowing the factors that affect the occurrence of complications is very important for clinicians working in ICUs to comprehend the seriousness of the situation. An estimation of complications beforehand and taking necessary precautions will both reduce mortality and prevent long hospital stays. Identifying and preventing complications before they occur is clear, considering that patient care in ICUs is costly and creates a greater economic burden.

Current researches have focused on high mortality in ICUs, and cause-effect studies have an important place in the literature. There are very few studies in the literature on the prediction of complications in ICUs. The current study researched whether the blood parameters of MPV, NLR, and PLR primarily had predictive value for the occurrence of complications in cases monitored in the postoperative ICU. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study related to this topic in the literature. The study included cases operated under elective conditions and monitored in the ICU. Cases were separated into two groups as those who had and did not have complications, and the correlation with blood parameters was assessed.

The chemical and physical properties of platelets are related to size. The increase in MPV is a new parameter used as a cardiovascular risk factor. MPV is an important parameter showing the activation and function of platelets, and activated platelets are known to play an important role in systemic inflammatory response syndrome the pathogenesis of atherothrombosis. Studies have shown that in the occurrence of atherothrombosis, not only the platelet content but also the material released from platelets plays an effective role in the induction of inflammation (5).

In vitro studies have shown that parameters such as p-selectin, active glycoprotein 2b/3a, platelet factor 4, and beta-thromboglobulin play a role in platelet activation and functions. However, these parameters are not studied in routine applications because of the need for detailed equipment and expertise and the relatively higher expense, so they are not used to assess platelet activation and functions. Examining MPV is a simple, inexpensive, straight forward process. While MPV levels show a correlation

with platelet activation and functions, increased MPV values are related to short hemorrhage time and increased plasma thromboxane A2 level (4). In this study, the MPV was used to assess platelet functions in all cases. The *in vitro* parameters of p-selectin, active glycoprotein 2b/3a, platelet factor 4 and beta-thromboglobulin could not be evaluated for platelet activation and function as the study was retrospective and routine use of these parameters is very expensive.

A study by Taglieri et al. (9) reported that increased MPV levels were related to the repeated MI risk within one year. Bath et al. (10) also stated that increased MPV levels were a predictive factor for a new attack in cases with cerebrovascular disease or transient ischemic attack. The MPV level was determined to be an important biomarker for prognosis in cases with cardiovascular disease. Another study by Dogan et al. (11) reported that increased MPV values in non-ST elevation MI cases were associated with cardiac death, recurrent angina, or prolonged hospital stay. Topuz et al. (12) reported that MPV levels were higher in cases with paroxysmal AF. A study by Choudhury et al. (13) found that platelet activation and MPV levels were higher in cases with AF compared to cases with normal sinus rhythm. Ha et al. (14) also identified higher MPV values in AF cases. Erdem et al. (15) reported that preoperative MPV values were related to the risk of AF occurrence after coronary bypass. Many studies in the literature have investigated the correlation of MPV with mortality in ICU patients. Altun et al. (16) reported no correlation between MPV and mortality. A meta-analysis by Tajarerndmuang et al. (17) stated no correlation between the MPV value at the time of admission to ICU and mortality. Yarkıcı et al. (18) found a significant correlation between increased MPV and mortality in intensive care. However, no previous study has evaluated the correlation between the occurrence of complications in cases monitored in the ICU and MPV. The results of the current study showed that the preoperative and postoperative MPV values in group B were significantly higher than those of group A. In group B, the postoperative MPV value was significantly increased compared to the preoperative value. The postoperative MPV value in group A was significantly increased compared to the preoperative value (Table 3).

In recent years, NLR has started to measure the severity of inflammation in a variety of diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, malignancy, and diabetes. The ratios of neutrophil and platelet counts to lymphocyte count have been shown to be possible markers of systemic inflammation and to be

associated with prognosis in many cardiovascular diseases, malignancies, and chronic inflammatory diseases (19-22). Even though NLR is a marker of inflammatory conditions, it may also be responsible for renal endothelial damage and impaired microcirculation as a consequence of the inflammatory process arising from neutrophil infiltration, activated endothelium, lymphocytes, and platelets (23,24). PLR has been used to predict patients' prognosis with different inflammatory and ischemic events (25). Temiz et al. (26) observed that elevated PLR was correlated with hospital mortality. In the current study, no significant differences were determined between groups A and B in respect of the preoperative and postoperative PLR values. The postoperative PLR values in groups A and B were significantly increased compared to the preoperative values. In group B, the preoperative and postoperative NLR values were significantly higher compared to those of group A. The postoperative NLR values in groups A and B were significantly increased compared to the preoperative values (Table 3).

Although blood parameters are now used as predictive values for many diseases and malignancies, their effect on the occurrence of complications in cases monitored in ICUs is unknown. In this study, the cases monitored in ICU were separated into two groups according to whether complications were observed or not. The blood parameters of MPV, BUN, creatinine, WBC, RBC, PLT, NLR, and PLR were evaluated and compared. In the cases with complications, the blood parameters of MPV, NLR, and PLR were observed to be higher in the postoperative period. The elevation of MPV, NLR, and PLR, especially in cases with complications, shows the role of the inflammatory response for complications. This study is important in assessing the effect of the MPV, NLR, and PLR values on postoperative complications. When the results of this study are considered, the widespread increase in MPV, NLR, and PLR values in the postoperative period may be an indicator of complications. When all cases are re-evaluated in terms of complications, taking precautions against possible complications will reduce mortality and the duration of hospital stay.

Study Limitations

Although this study provides valuable information, there are some limitations, primarily its retrospective design. Other limiting factors include the relatively low number of cases included in the study, the lack of randomization, not knowing which factors affecting blood parameters

were present in cases, not knowing if cases had sudden temperature loss affecting blood parameters previously and not knowing if cases had diseases such as congenital platelet diseases. There is a need for further, randomized controlled studies with higher patient numbers to extend this topic's knowledge.

Conclusion

The occurrence of complications while cases are monitored in ICUs remains a significant problem. The prediction of complications that may occur in cases monitored in ICUs and taking rapid and effective precautions against these complications will significantly reduce mortality rates. The MPV, NLR, and PLR values of patients who had complications were observed to increase in the postoperative period. Therefore, the use of simple, rapid, and inexpensive techniques such as MPV, NLR, and PLR for the prediction of potential complications in cases monitored in ICUs will undoubtedly reduce mortality rates. statistical analysis.

Ethics

Ethics Committee Approval: Approval for the study was granted by the Hospital Ethics Committee (University of Health Sciences Turkey, İstanbul Bakırköy Dr. Sadi Konuk Training and Research Hospital Ethics Committee no: 2017-154).

Informed Consent: Retrospective study.

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Authorship Contributions

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