RESEARCH ARTICLE

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A Clinical Study on the Role of *Vamana Karma* and *Nimbadivati* in the Management of *Ekakushtha* w.s.r. to Psoriasis

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Abstract

At the door –step of 21st century with a machine like routine, fast-food and fast hectic life of scientifically modernized world human is being confronting with a variety of diseases. This type of food habit, less sleep, stress, pollution accelerates the disturbance in the body especially on the skin. In present era the skin diseases become a major hazard for mental health more than physical as it distribute the cosmetic harmony. Psoriasis is a chronic, non-contagious disease that affects mainly the skin. The cause of Psoriasis is not exactly known, but it is believed to have an autoimmune, genetic component and it can be triggered by a prolonged injury to the skin. Factors that may aggravate Psoriasis include stress, withdrawal of systemic corticosteroid, excessive alcohol consumption, and smoking. There are many treatments available, but because of its chronic recurrent nature Psoriasis is a challenge to treat. Present available treatments have many hazardous effects therefore, to treat it safely and effectively *Vamana* therapy is used. It plays a significant role without any side effects. And we have found very significant result in all parameters of Psoriasis like itching, scaling erythema and thickness of sale and also seen in improvement of sign of Psoriasis like Auspitz 'sign and Candle Grease sign.

Keywords

Vamana Karma, Ekakushtha, Nimbadi Vati, Jimutaka, Psoriasis



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INTRODUCTION

The most common skin manifestations of Psoriasis are scaling erythematous macules, papules and plaques. Typically the macules are seen first and these progresses to maculopapules and ultimately welldemarcated, noncoherent, silvery plaques overlying a glossy homogeneous erythema¹. The following features are pertinent and helpful in the clinical diagnosis of Psoriasis.

- Auspitz sign When hyperkeratotic scale is mechanically removed from a psoriatic plaque by scratching, within few minutes, small blood droplets appear on erythamatous surface (due to dilated and tortuous blood vessels in papillary dermis). However, it is not positive in inverse Psoriasis or pustular Psoriasis on the scalp lesion, even nonpsoriatic plaques e.g. of seborrhoeic dermatitis may shows a positive Auspitz sign².
- The isomorphic response or koebner phenomenon, which is occurrence of lesions in areas of trauma, e.g. cuts, surgical wounds, scratch marks and even burns. It indicates actively spreading disease and is most frequently seen in patients with early onset Psoriasis
- Presence of nail pitting, which can aid in diagnosis of the disease.

• Altered pigmentation with lesional clearance.

The cause of Psoriasis is not exactly known, but it is believed to have an autoimmune, genetic component and it can be triggered by a prolonged injury to the skin. Factors that may aggravate Psoriasis include stress, withdrawal of systemic corticosteroid, excessive alcohol consumption, and smoking. There are many treatments available but because of its chronic recurrent nature Psoriasis is a challenge to treat.

Ayurveda texts do not give a direct reference towards a single disease which can be compared with the modern day "Psoriasis". Many entities like "*Kitibha*", "*Charmadala*" and "*Ekakushtha*" are compared with it.

*Ekakushtha*³ consists of the signs and symptoms i.e. *Asvedanam, Mahavastu* and *Matsyashakalopamam Avastha* which can be compared with Psoriasis and hence it has been taken as the analogue to Psoriasis in the present research work.

Ekakushtha is a *VataKapha Pradhan Vyadhi. Vamana* is the principle treatment of *Kaphaj Vyadhi. Vata* is *yogvahi* i.e. it works according to the accompanying *Doshas* (here *Kapha*). It is said in the classics that *Vata Pradhana Kustha* should be treated with *Snehana* and *Vamana*⁴ is the best procedure for *Kapha Prdhan Kustha*. Because of both *Doshas are* involved in *Ekakushtha*, *Snehana* with *Kaphanashaka Ghrita* and *Vamana* procedure may play a significant role in this disease.

Acharya Vagbhata has mentioined one special formulation for Kaphaj Kustha i.e. Nimbadi Ghrita⁵ was used for Abhyantara Snehana before Vamana to increase its efficacy.

In present study instead of single Vamana drug, we have taken combination of Vamak Dravya for induction of Vaman Karma. For this purpose we selected Jimutaka, Vacha and saindhava Lavana in a ratio of 3:2:1. Most of them have Kaphapitahara property which is highly useful for Kaphapradhan vyadhi like Ekakustha (Psoriasis). After completion of Vaman Karma, Shamana therapy must be given. So we have selected Nimbadivati for Shaman of remaining Dosha and in second group for only Shamana.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Selection of the patients

Pre-diagnosed patients of Psoriasis, fulfilling the criteria of selection and divided in two groups randomly irrespective of age, sex, caste, religion, profession etc. from the O.P.D. as well as I.P.D. of Govt. *Akhandanand Ayurveda* College-Hospital, Ahmedabad and Govt. *Shrimati Maniben Ayurveda* Hospital, Ahmadabad were registered in the study.

Ethical clearance

The present study has been cleared by Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC No. 11, <u>dated 18/02/2014</u>) and written consent of the parents of each patient was taken before starting the treatment. Basic information of the disease and treatment was given to the patients.

Criteria for selection of patients

- As per clinical sign and symptoms of *Ekakushtha* (Psoriasis) described in classical *Ayurvedic* text and Modern literature.
- 2. Age groups: 20-60 years of either sex.

Criteria for exclusion of patients

- 1. Vamana ayogya as per classical text excluded for study.
- Patients having complicated diseases like Cancer, T.B., Heart diseases, D.M., H.I.V. Gastric or duodenal ulcer etc.
- 3. Below 20 year and above 60 year of age.

Grouping and Posology

GROUP A: *Vamana Karma* followed by *Nimbadi Vati*(after *Samsarjana Karma*) for 6 weeks

• Snehapana: Snehapana with Nimbadi Ghrita, 25 ml initial dose with gradual increase up to 3/5/7days as per Koshtha and up to Samyak Snehana Lakshana obtained.

• Vamana was performed by Jimutaka (3 part), Vacha (2 part) and Saindhava (1 part).

 Shamana: Nimbadi Vati(6gm/day each Vati-500mg.) was given for 6 weeks.

Group B: *Shamana Chikitsa with Nimbadi Vati*(6gm/day - each Vati-500mg.) for 8 weeks. Follow up was taken after 4 weeks in both the groups.

Assessment criteria

A research proforma was designed for the present study and a scoring pattern was adopted for the assessment of clinical trials. The effect of therapy was assessed by counting the scores before and after treatment.

Parameters

Asvedanam (lack of perspiration), Mahavastu (area of involvement) (lack of perspiration), Matsyashakalopamam (Scaling), Kandu (itching), Krishna Aruna Varna (erythema) and Rukshta (Dryness), Nidranasha (disturbed sleep) Sandhi Shula, (Joint pain), Scaling frequency Nakhadusti (Nail Changes) and Auspitz sign ,Candle grease sign and Koebner's Phenomena . Assessment of total effect of therapy

• Cured: 100 % relief in signs and symptoms.

- Marked improvement: More than 75% improvement in signs and symptoms was recorded as marked improvement.
- Moderate improvement: 51% to 75% improvement in signs and symptoms was considered as moderate improvement.
- Mild improvement: 26% to 50% improvement in signs and symptoms was considered as mild improvement.
- No Improvement: Less than 25% reduction in signs and symptoms was noted as unchanged.

Statistical analysis

Student's "*t*" test (paired and unpaired) was applied for assessment of the results.

Selection of procedure and drug

Vamana Karma

Charaka has highlighted the role of *PanchaKarma* therapy by stating that the disease treated by *Shodhana* will never recur whereas the treatment with *Shamana*

therapy may recur in due course of time⁶. Ekakushtha is a *Vata-Kapha Pradhan Vyadhi* and *Vamana* is the principal treatment of *Kapha Vyadhi*. *Vata* is *yogvahi* i.e., it functions according to the accompanying *Doshas* (here *Kapha*). So in present study *Vamana Karma* was taken for *Shodhana* process.

Nimadi Ghrita

Acharya Charaka mentioned that in *Kushtha, Prameha and Shotha Snehana* should be done with *Siddha Ghrita*.

In the present study, *Nimbadi Ghrita* was given as *Abhyantara Snehana* in increasing dose from three to seven days for *Samyaka Snehana*. *Acharya Vagbhata* mentioned "*Nimbadi Ghrita*" in the treatment of *Kaphaja Kustha therefore that* was selected *for Abhyantara Snehana* prior to *Vamana* to increase the efficacy of the treatment.

In present study instead of single Vamana drug, we have taken combination of Vamak Dravya for induction of Vamana Karma. For this we used Jimutaka, Vacha and Saindhava Lavana in a ratio of 3:2:1. Most of them have Kaphapitahara property which is highly useful for Kaphapradhan Vyadhi like Ekakushtha (Psoriasis).

Nimadi Vati

Ekakushtha is Kapha Vata Pradhana and RaktapraDoshaja Vyadhi. Mainly Sanga and Vimarga Gamana type of Srotodushti was found in Ekakushtha patient. In the Samprapti of Ekakushtha, Sanga is caused by Kapha Dosha and Vimarga Gamana is caused by Vata. Maximum no. of content in Nimbadi Vatihas Tikta and Katu Rasa, Ushana Virya, Laghu and Ruksha Guna which all act on Kapha. Tikta and Katu rasa has properties like Lekhana, Deepana, Pachana and Kleda Upashoshana and due to these properties it becomes able to remove obstruction (Sanga) of Kapha and process, Vata due to this becomes channelized and Samprapti Vighatana achieved.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Total 30 patients were registered in the present study. Maximum number of patients i.e., 40% belonged to age group of 51-60 yrs. Maximum number of patients i.e., 63.33 % were male, 83.33% patients were Hindu, 86.67% of the patients were married 33.33% were housewives, 60.00% patients were undergraduates ,53.33% were from medium class and 80% were from urban area.

The results of the present study showed that maximum numbers of patients i.e., 76.67%

suffered from Plaque Psoriasis, 56.67% of patients were having the habit of vegetarian diet and most of the patients i.e., 76.67% preferred *Amla Rasa Pradhan Ahara*.

- Maximum no. of patients 56.67% were having *Adhyashan* type of dietary habit, 43.33% had *Vishamagni*, 63.33% were of *Krura Koshtha*, 86.67% had day sleeping,80.00% of the patients had not any physical exercise habit and 53.3% were addicted to tea and/or coffee.
- Most of the patients (6.67%) were having positive family, 53.3% patients were of *Vata Pittaja*, 53.3% of patients were of *Rajasika manasika prukruti*.
- Most of patients (96.66%) were habituated consuming food made mainly from wild barley, *cheenaka* and common millet grains along with milk, curds, butter-milk and 83.33% gave a history of *Vega Dharan* either *Manasik or Sharirika*.
- Most of the patients (73.33%.) showed that Vata-Kapha Dosha involvement and Tvacha, Rakta Dhatu Dushti, Rasavaha and

Raktavaha Dushti were found in all patients .

 Mahavastu, Matsyashakalopamam, Kandu, Krishna Aruna Varna and Rukshta was found in all the patients (100%) while Asvedanam was found in 83.33% of patients.

Disturbed sleep was present in 53.33% patients; Nail changes (i.e., pitting, oil spots) were present in 33.33% patients and joint involvement was found in 30% patients. Auspitz sign was present in 100% patients followed by Candle grease sign in 56.66% and Koebner's Phenomena was found in 10% of patients.

Lower extremity involvement was found in 90% of patients, in maximum no. of patients (86.67%) consumed total quantity of *Nimbadi Ghrita* in a range of 450-840 ml and average quantity of *Vamana yoga* (*Jimutakadi Vamana yoga*) in 73.33% patients was 10-12 gm, (53.33%) had taken 35-45 min for the induction of first *Vega* and *Vega* quality in 53.33 % of patients non Projectile Vega, with the support of *Vamnopaga* was observed.

During Vamana procedure clear Pitta appeared in 26.67% of patients and Madhyama Shuddhi was observed in 53.33%.

RESULTS

Effect of therapy:

significant relief Statistically highly (p<0.001, p<0.01) was found in Mahavastu (%age relief=46.2%), Matsyashakalopamam (%age relief=86.0%), Krishna aruna varna (%age relief=53.3%), *Kandu* (%age relief = (9.4%), Rukshta (%age relief = 56.0%),Asvedanam (%age relief=66.64%), Nidranasha (%age relief=53.3%), Candle grease sign (%age relief=95.0%), Auspitz Sign (% age relief = 90.0%), Scaling frequency (% age relief=81.1%), PASI Score (% age relief = 70.4%) and DLQI Score (%age relief=56.8%).

But insignificant results (P > 0.05) were found in *Nakhadushti* (%age relief=14.3%), *Sandhishula* (%age relief=49.8%) and Koebner's phenomena (**Table 1**).

Significant Statistically Highly relief (p<0.001, p<0.01) was found in *Matsyashakalopamam* (%age relief=56.1%), Krishna aruna Varna (%age relief = 43.2%), Kandu (%age relief = 47.4%), Rukshta (% age relief = 37.5), Asvedanam (%age relief = 37.5%), Nidranasha (%age relief = 33.3%) and Candle grease sign (%age relief=80.0%).

Auspitz Sign (%age relief = 80.0%), Scaling frequency (%age relief=58.7%), PASI Score (%age relief = 44.8%) and DLQI Score (%age relief=32.3%).

Statistically significant relief (<0.05) was found in *Mahavastu* (% age relief = 20.0%) and insignificant results (P > 0.05) were found in *Nakhadusti* (% age relief=14.3%), *Sandhishula* (% age relief=49.8%) and Koebner's phenomena. (**Table 2**)

Follow-up was done after 4 weeks of stopping the active treatment. No further increase in the severity of signs and symptoms was observed in both groups. No adverse effects were reported by any of the patients in any group.

Overall Effect of Therapy

In Group A, marked improvement was seen in 13.3% patients, moderate improvement was seen in 80.0% patients, mild improvement was seen in 6.7% of patients and no patient was found in unchanged result category.In Group B moderate improvement was found in 40% of patients. Mild improvement was found in 53.3% and 6.7% patients were found in unchanged result category (**Table 3**).

Table 1 Effects of Therapy on Individual Criteria in Group- A (Paired t test)

S.	Parameters	Ν	Mean	D	%age	SD ±	SE±	t	Р

No.			BT	AT		Relief				
1.	Asvedanam	15	1.400	0.467	0.933	66.4%	0.961	0.248	3.76	0.002
2.	Mahavastu	15	2.600	1.400	1.200	46.2%	0.775	0.200	6.000	< 0.001
3.	Matsyashakalopamam	15	2.867	0.400	2.467	86.0%	0.834	0.215	11.457	<0.001
4.	Krishna aruna varna	15	3.00	1.400	1.600	53.3%	0.632	0.163	9.798	< 0.001
5.	Kandu	15	3.267	1.000	2.267	69.4%	0.594	0.153	14.789	<0.001
6	Rukshta	15	2.733	1.200	1.533	56.0%	0.516	0.133	11.500	< 0.001
7	Nidranasha	15	1.000	0.467	0.533	53.3%	0.640	0.165	3.228	0.006
8	Nakhadusti	15	0.933	0.800	0.133	14.3%	0.352	0.090	1.468	0.164
9	Sandhishula	15	0.267	0.133	0.133	49.8%	0.516	0.133	1.000	0.334
10.	Auspitz Sign	15	2.000	0.200	1.800	90.0%	0.414	0.107	16.837	<0.001
11.	Candle grease sign	15	1.333	0.066	1.267	95.0%	0.961	0.248	5.104	<0.001
12	Koebner's phenomena	15	0.133	0.00	0.133	100%	0.561	0.133	1.000	0.334
13	Scaling frequency	15	3.667	0.667	3.000	81.1%	0.756	0.195	15.370	< 0.001
14	PASI Score	15	23.520	6.960	16.560	70.4%	9.834	2.539	6.522	< 0.001
15	DLQI Score	15	14.200	6.133	8.067	56.8%	3.535	0.913	8.838	< 0.001

DISCUSSION

The present work was selected keeping in mind the following points:

Problem

Psoriasis is a today's burning problem because of its Socio - psychological impact, limitation and adverse effects of treatment, chronic nature and recurrence. Therefore, the study entitled "A Clinical Study on the role of *Vamana Karma* and *Nimbadivati* in the management of *Ekakushtha* w.s.r. to Psoriasis" was undertaken.

There is no direct reference in *Ayurveda texts* towards a single disease which can be compared with the modern day "Psoriasis". Many entities like "*Kitibha*",

"Charmadala" and "Ekakushtha" are compared with it.

S. No.	Parameters	Ν	N Mean		D	%age	SD ±	SE±	t	Р
			BT	AT	_	Relief				
1.	Asvedanam	15	1.067	0.667	0.400	37.5%	0.507	0.131	3.055	0.009
2.	Mahavastu	15	2.000	1.600	0.400	20.0%	0.632	0.163	2.449	0.028
3.	Matsyashakalopamam	15	2.733	1.200	1.533	56.1%	0.516	0.133	11.500	<0.00
4.	Krishna aruna varna	15	2.467	1.400	1.067	43.2%	0.594	0.153	6.959	<0.00
5.	Kandu	15	2.533	1.200	1.333	47.4%	0.617	0.159	8.367	< 0.00
6	Rukshta	15	2.133	1.333	0.800	37.5%	0.414	0.107	7.483	< 0.00
7	Nidranasha	15	1.000	0.667	0.333	33.3%	0.488	0.126	2.646	0.019
8	Nakhadusthi	15	0.267	0.267	0.000	0.0%	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.000
9	Sandhishula	15	0.600	0.600	0.000	0.0%	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.000
10.	Auspitz Sign	15	2.000	0.400	1.600	80.0%	0.507	0.131	12.220	<0.00
11.	Candle grease sign	15	0.933	0.200	0.733	78.5%	0.884	0.228	3.214	0.006
12	Koebner's phenomena	15	0.267	0.000	0.267	100%	0.704	0.182	1.468	0.164
13	Scaling frequency	15	3.067	1.267	1.800	58.7%	0.676	0.175	10311	< 0.00
14	PASI Score	15	18.633	10.287	8.347	44.8%	5.238	1.353	6.171	< 0.00
15	DLQI Score	15	12.400	8.400	4.000	32.3%	2.204	0.569	7.029	< 0.00

Table 2 Effects of Therapy on Individual Criteria in Group- B (Paired t test)

Disease

Ekakushtha consists of the signs and symptoms (i.e. *Asvedanam, Mahavastu, Matsyashakalopamam Avastha* and *Krishna aruna Varna*) which can be compared with Psoriasis and hence it has been taken as the analogue to Psoriasis in the present research work.

Vamana Karma

Ekakushtha is VataKapha Pradhana Vyadhi and Vamana is a specific therapy for Kapha Dosha. Vamana drugs which are having Ushna, Tikshna, Sukshma, Vyavayi and Vikasi property reaches the Hridaya by virtue of its Virya then following the Dhamani. It spreads in the whole body through large and small Srotas. Vamana drugs by their property and Vayu and Akasha Mahabhuta dominancy helps in eliminating the Dosha from the Shakha to Koshtha and then expelling them out from the body through oral route.

Abhyantara Snehana

Vamana Dravya

Jimutaka has Tikta rasa, Usna virya and Katu Vipaka and when it is given with appropriate adjuvant, it can cure all diseases⁷.

Nimadiva

Ekakushtha is Kapha Vata Pradhana and RaktapraDoshaja Vyadhi. Mainly Sanga and Vimarga Gamana type of Srotodushti was found in Ekakushtha patient. In the Samprapti of Ekakushtha, Sanga is caused by Kapha Dosha and Vimarga Gamana is caused by Vata. Maximum no. of content in NimbadiVati has Tikta and Katu Rasa, Ushana Virya, Laghu and Ruksha Guna which all act on Kapha. Tikta and Katu rasa has properties like Lekhana, Deepana, Pachana, Kleda Upashoshana by which it becomes able to removing obstruction (Sanga) of Kapha and due to this process, Vata becomes channelized and Samprapti Vighatana will be achieved.

Among the contents of *Nimbadi Vati*, (**Table.4**) most of the contents are useful to pacify the vitiated *Kapha*. On other hand drugs *have Kushthagna,Kandughna, Krimighna,Kaphanashaka* properties which directly act on *VataKaphaja kustha* i.e., *Ekakushtha*.

Results

Asvedanam occurs due to the obstruction of Svedavaha Srotas i.e., Sanga which is due to Kapha Dosha. This is relieved by Vamana Karma having Kapha Shodhaka property. Therefore, more percentage of relief is found in Group A.

In *Kushtha* disease generally all the three Dosha are involved and due to which *Vamana Karma*, *Pitta and Kapha* were removed therefore better results were found in Group A.

Scaling is also called hyperkeratinisation which is due to vitiation of *TriDosha*. *Vata* increases rate of cell division, *Pitta* increases the enzymatic processes in cell and *Kapha* due to *Snigdha and Pichchhila Guna* produces smooth scales. Snehana pacifies *Vata Dosha* and *Vamana* remove mainly *Apakva Pittaand Kapha Dosha*. Ghrita is *Varnya* so it maintains normal colour of skin and *Vamana* removes *Apakva Pitta* Dosha. *Varna* is also associated with *Pitta Dosha* therefore better result come in group A.

Kandu is a symptom mainly caused by vitiated *Kapha Dosha*. *Acharya Charaka* quoted if *kushtha* is *Kapha* predominant then *Vamana* is the best treatment. *Vamana* may be responsible for relief in *Kandu* due to vitiated *Kapha Dosha excretion*.

Rukshta is a symptom mainly caused by vitiated *Vata Dosha*. *Acharya Charaka* quoted that *Sarpipana* is the first line of treatment of *Vata*.

Scaling is due to vitiated *Vata and Nimbadi Ghrita* pacify *Vata Dosha* due to *Snehana* so scaling slow down more in group A .

PASI Score shows the overall effect of therapy and in Group A both vitiated *Vata and Kapha* were pacified more effectively due to the effect of *Snehana*, *Vamana and Nimbadivati*. So PASI Score showed more result in group A.

DLQI Score shows the overall effect of therapy and in Group A both vitiated *Vata*

and Kapha pacify more effectively due to effect of *Snehana*, *Vamana and Nimbadivati* .So DLQI Score showed more result in group A.

Table 3 Comparison of Overall Effect of Therapy
in Both Groups

Results	Group A	(n=15)	Group B	(n=15)
	No. of Patients	%age	No. of Patients	%age
Cured	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Markedly	2	13.3%	0	0.0%
Improved				
Moderate	12	80.0%	6	40.0
ly				%
Improved				
Mildly	1	6.7%	8	53.3
Improved				%
Unchang	0	0.0%	1	6.7%
ed				

CONCLUSION

Thus, it can be concluded that *Vamana Karma* using *Nimbadi Ghrita* followed by *Shamana* therapy with *Nimbadi Vati*is the best choice of treatment of *Ekakushtha*. Although, both therapies are effective in reliving signs and symptoms of *Ekakushtha*, in present clinical study statistically significant difference was observed between two therapies and reflects that Group A is better than Group B.

Dravya	Rasa	Guna	Virya	Vipak a	Doshag- Hnata	Karma
Nimba	Tikta,Kasaya	Laghu	Sita	Katu	Kaphapitah ara	Kaphaghna,Raktasodhaka, Kusthaghna
Saptaparna	Tikta ,Kasaya	Laghu,Snigha	Usna	Katu	Kaphapitah ara	Kusthaghna,Udarda Prashamanam
Chitaraka	Katu	Laghu,Ruksha, Tikshna	Usna	Katu	Kaphavatas hamak	Lekhniya, Deepniya Kaphaghna,Jvraghna
Kustha	Tikta,Katu,Madh ur	Laghu,Ruksna, Tiksna	Usna	Katu	Kaphavatas hamak	Lekhniya,VataKapha Shamak Kusthagnha, Kaphanisaraka
Maricha	Katu,	Laghu,Tiksna,	Usna	Katu	Kapha- Shamaka	Deepana,Rochana, Kaphanisaraka
Vacha	Katu ,Tikta	Laghu, Tiksna	Usna	Katu	Kaphavata Shamak	Lekhniya,Krimihara, ,Vibandhahara
Shal	Kashaya	Ruksha	Seeta	Katu	Kaphapita Shamak	Vranaropaka,Kapha Nisaraka,Kusthagna

Table 4 Showing the Contents of Nimbadivati

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