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7 MFG-E8 Induced Differences in Proteomic Profiles in Mouse
8 C₂C₁₂ Cells and Its Effect on PI3K/Akt and ERK Signal
9 Pathways

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11 He Li^a, Kaifang Guan^a, Xu Li^b, Ying Ma^{a*}, Shaobo Zhou^{a,c*}

12 ^aSchool of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Harbin Institute of Technology,
13 Harbin 150090, Heilongjiang, PR China.

14 ^bDepartment of Ophthalmology, The second Hospital, Jilin University, Changchun
15 130012, Jilin, PR China.

16 ^cSchool of Life Sciences, Institute of Biomedical and Environmental Science and
17 Technology, University of Bedfordshire, Luton, LU1 3JU, UK

18

19 *Corresponding authors: Phone: +86 451 86282903, E-mail: maying@hit.edu.cn and
20 shaobo.zhou@beds.ac.uk

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23

24 **Abstract**

25 Milk fat globule-EGF factor 8 (MFG-E8) is one of the major proteins in milk fat
26 globule membrane. In this study, mouse-derived C₂C₁₂ myoblast cells were served as
27 an experimentally tractable model system for investigating the molecular basis of
28 skeletal muscle cell specification and development. To examine the biochemical
29 adaptations associated with myocytes formation comprehensively, a liquid
30 chromatography coupled with tandem mass spectrometry label-free semi-quantitative
31 approach was used to analyse the myogenic C₂C₁₂ proliferation program. Over 1987
32 proteins were identified in C₂C₁₂ cells. The MFG-E8 (200 µg/mL) and MFG-E8 (500
33 µg/mL) with significant differences were compared based on the relative abundance.
34 The result profiles of regulation of MFG-E8 to the expression of proteins in C₂C₁₂
35 cells revealed that differential waves of expression of proteins linked to intracellular
36 signaling, transcription, cytoarchitecture, adhesion, metabolism, and muscle
37 contraction across during the C₂C₁₂ cell proliferation process. Based on the analysis of
38 KEGG and STRING database, further to verification the expression of PI3K and ERK
39 phosphorylation levels by *Western blot*. This study found that the data of proteomic
40 was complementary to recent MFG-E8 studies of protein expression patterns in
41 developing myotubes and provided a holistic framework for understanding how
42 diverse biochemical processes are coordinated at the cellular level during skeletal
43 muscle development.

44 **Keyword:** LC-MS/MS, label-free, MFG-E8, *Western blot*, biological activity.

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47 **Introduction.**

48 Sarcopenia is a frequent disease in the elderly populations and is related to
49 metabolic diseases, such as diabetes and obesity [1]. The age-related process is
50 associated with losses of muscle mass, bone mass, strength and function, which pose
51 significant threats to physical performance and quality of life [2].

52 The milk fat globule membrane (MFGM) has gained much attention as a kind of
53 nutritional supplementation due to its positively influence aspects of sarcopenia and
54 thereby prevention of skeletal muscle protein degradation [3]. Milk fat globule-EGF
55 factor 8 (MFG-E8), known as lactadherin, is a highly abundance glycoprotein in
56 MFGM [4]. It is also expressed in a range of tissues by a variety of cells including
57 macrophages, fibroblasts, dendritic, and epithelial cells.

58 PI3K/Akt signaling pathway plays an essential role in a wide range of biological
59 functions, including metabolism, cell growth, proliferation, differentiation and
60 intracellular trafficking [5]. Our previous studies reported that MFG-E8 can promote
61 C₂C₁₂ cell proliferation via the PI3K/Akt/mTOR/P70S6K signal pathway. MAPK
62 signal pathway is known to regulate cell proliferation, differentiation and cell survival.
63 Three subsets of Mitogen-activated protein kinases (MAPKs), extracellular
64 signal-regulated kinases 1 and 2 (ERK1/2), p38 MAPK (p38) and c-Jun N-terminal
65 kinase (JNK), are vital pathways that transfer extracellular signals into cells and
66 closely associate with the proliferation and differentiation of cells. Growing evidences
67 point to the important role of MAPKs on mechanical stretch regulated proliferation,
68 differentiation and protein synthesis of skeletal muscle cells.

69 Cell metabolomic analysis has been developed as a powerful, convenient and
70 efficient platform to systematically clarify the molecular mechanisms underlying
71 nutritional supplementation [6]. Metabolites, as the downstream products of gene
72 transcription, its alternations may reflect overall metabolic changes of cells intuitively.
73 Therefore, it is convenient to study the effects and molecular mechanisms of
74 nutritional interventions on muscle cells. In vivo animal and human experiments have
75 been conducted to study the effect and mechanism of MFGM supplementation. Our
76 previous work has shown that MFG-E8 was isolated from MFGM and purified by an

77 ion exchange column [7], LC-MS/MS was used to identify MFG-E8 as the main
78 components in MFGM P2 (82.4%). MFG-E8 can promote C₂C₁₂ cell proliferation and
79 differentiation based on the results of flow cytometry, laser confocal microscopy and
80 transmission electron microscopy analyses. The key regulatory factors, eg., PI3K
81 P85 α , p-pI3K p85 α (Tyr 508), Akt, p-Akt (Ser 473), mTOR and p-mTOR (Ser 2448),
82 in cells incubated with MFG-E8 with or without wortmannin, were measured by
83 qRT-PCR and *Western blot* assay. These result were indicated MFG-E8 could promote
84 C₂C₁₂ cell proliferation and differentiation via PI3K/Akt signal pathway [8]. However,
85 MFG-E8 has been reported to promote the invasion, migration and proliferation of
86 cancer cells via the multiple-signaling pathways, and there are rarely performed in
87 vitro cell experiments by using metabonomic analysis.

88 In this study, we performed lable-free-based metabolomics analysis to explore
89 metabolic responses of MFG-E8 supplementation on C₂C₁₂ mouse myoblast cell line,
90 which can promote C₂C₁₂ cells proliferation in vitro, and a systematic investigation on
91 the differences in proteomic was induced by different concentration of MFG-E8. The
92 differences in proteomic profiles of myoblast C₂C₁₂ cell induced by MFG-E8 were
93 investigated by label-free semiquantitative approach. Related signal pathways were
94 analyzed by KEGG analysis and phosphoprotein interacting-networks were generated
95 by the STRING database. Further to verification of phosphoproteins by *Western blot*.
96 The purpose of this study is to better understand how diverse biochemical processes
97 are coordinated at the cellular level during MFG-E8 regulated skeletal muscle
98 development.

99 **2 Materials and Methods**

100 **2.1 Materials**

101 C₂C₁₂ cell was supplied by Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (Beijing,
102 China). Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM), Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS)
103 and Trypsin-EDTA solution (approximately 0.25% trypsin and 0.02% EDTA) were
104 purchased from gibco. All other chemicals and reagents used were of analytical grade.

105 **2.2 Preparation of MFG-E8**

106 The MFG-E8 protein was extracted according to the method reported

107 previously[7]. Briefly, a fresh milk sample (100 mL) containing sucrose (5 g) was
108 centrifuged using an automatic cream separator, at 3500g at 38 °C for 30 min. The
109 buttermilk was initially adjusted to pH 4.8 using 0.01 mol L⁻¹ HCl in order to allow
110 the MFGM to precipitate, and then neutralized with 0.01 mol L⁻¹ NaOH. Finally, the
111 MFGM pellet was resuspended and its supernatant was freeze dried and stored at
112 -20 °C before analysis.

113 MFGM (0.2 g) was dissolved in PBS buffer (pH 8.0, 20 mg mL⁻¹) and applied
114 onto a DEAE Cellulose DE-52 (2.6 × 60 cm) column (Biotopped, China). The protein
115 fractions were eluted using a linear gradient elution of NaCl (0.2 M~0.8 M) in PBS
116 buffer (pH 8.0) at a flow rate of 1 mL min⁻¹. The MFGM protein fraction 2 were
117 collected, dialysed, concentrated and freeze-dried. The molecular weight and purity of
118 the MFG-E8 protein was confirmed using LC-MS/MS.

119 **2.3 Cell Culture**

120 The mouse skeletal myoblast C₂C₁₂ cells were grown in DEME medium (10 %
121 FBS, 90 % DEME). The C₂C₁₂ cells were treated with 200 µg/mL or 500 µg/mL
122 MFG-E8 for 48 h at 37 °C in a 95 % humidified atmosphere filtered air and 5% CO₂ in
123 a CO₂ incubator (HF90/HF240, Shanghai, China).

124 **2.4 The identification of protein**

125 2.4.1 protein Preparation

126 C₂C₁₂ cells were treated with 200 µg/mL of either MFGM or MFG-E8 for 48 h,
127 washed twice with PBS buffer. SDT buffer (4% sodium dodecyl sulfate, 100 mM
128 dithiothreitol, 150 mM Tris-HCl and pH 8.0) was added to the protein sample. The
129 lysate was sonicated and then boiled for 15 min. After centrifuged at 14000 g for 40
130 min, the supernatant was quantified with the BCA Protein Assay Kit (Bio-Rad, USA).
131 The sample was stored at -80 °C.

132 2.4.2 SDS-PAGE

133 The protein concentration was quantified using the BCA kit. 100 µg protein was
134 loaded onto a 1-D SDS gel (12% polyacrylamide) [9]. The gel was stained with
135 Coomassie brilliant blue R-250. The gel was destained with a solution of methanol
136 and glacial acetic acid (9:2, V/V). The image of the gel was taken using LKB 2400

137 GelScan XL gel imaging system (Bio-Rad, USA).

138 2.4.3 Liquid chromatography (LC)-electrospray ionization (ESI) Tandem MS
139 (MS/MS) analysis by Q exactive

140 The protein in C₂C₁₂ cell components were further analysed with capillary
141 LC-MS/MS based on our previous research [9]. The identification and quantification
142 of protein components in C₂C₁₂ cells was confirmed using LC-MS/MS.

143 2.4.4 Sequence database searching and data analysis

144 MASCOT engine and Proteome Discoverer 1.3 were applied to search and
145 analysis of MS/MS spectra based on the uniprot_cetartiodactyla. fasta database
146 (download on uniprot_mouse_84433_20180105.fasta, <http://www.uniprot.org/>). The
147 search parameters of Mascot and the analysis parameters of protein identification
148 were carried out according to the method in Ji et al [4].

149 **2.5 Western blot**

150 C₂C₁₂ cells were treated with 200 µg/mL of either MFGM or MFG-E8 for 48 h,
151 washed twice with PBS buffer and homogenized in lysis buffer. Total protein was
152 extracted and harvested by scraping with a modified radioimmunoprecipitation assay
153 buffer containing 100 nM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride for 30 min. Following
154 centrifugation at 10000 rpm for 15 min at 4°C, the supernatant was sonicated. The
155 protein concentration was quantified using a BCA kit (Solarbio, China). Proteins (100
156 µg) were loaded onto a 1-D SDS gel (12 % polyacrylamide). Next, proteins were
157 transferred onto a nitrocellulose filter membrane (PPLYGEN, China) using a wet
158 electrotransfer system (Bio-Rad, USA) for 1 h 30 min at 200 mA. The membranes
159 were blocked with 5 % non-fat dry milk in Tris-buffered saline with Tween-20 (TBST)
160 buffer for 1 h at room temperature, followed by incubation with primary antibodies
161 (Santa Cruz, USA) for each protein, for 1 h at 37 °C, or overnight at 4 °C, according to
162 the requirements. The concentrations of antibodies were as follows: GAPDH (1:500),
163 PI3K (1:500), p-PI3K (1:300), ERK (1:600) and p-ERK (1:600). The membrane was
164 washed for 5 minutes three times with TBST, followed by incubation with anti-mouse
165 or anti-rabbit secondary antibody (1:2000; Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Inc.) at 37 °C
166 for 1 h. The membrane was washed with TBST twice and with TBS once, 5 min each,

167 and then incubated with alkaline phosphatase until an appropriate signal level was
168 obtained. Protein bands were detected by FluorChem Imaging Systems (Alpha
169 Innotech, Corp., San Leandro, CA, USA).

170 **2.6 Statistical analysis**

171 All experiments, except described somewhere else, were tested and analyzed in
172 triplicate. An analysis of variance (ANOVA) was identified to determine the
173 significant differences ($P < 0.05$) between means. The statistical analyses were done
174 by using SPSS 19.0 (SPSS Science, USA).

175 **3 Result and discussion**

176 **3.1 The identification of protein in C₂C₁₂ cells**

177 The differences in proteomic profiles of myoblast C₂C₁₂ cell induced by
178 MFG-E8 were analyzed by the LC-MS/MS, tryptic peptide sequence was matched
179 with MASCOT and Uniprot. 1987 proteins in C₂C₁₂ cells were identified, Histone H4
180 (5.82 %), Histone H3 (3.97 %), Histone H2A (3.84 %) and Histone H2B (3.28 %)
181 were the higher abundant protein components in C₂C₁₂ cells (Table 1). Previous
182 research was found that MFG-E8 induced C₂C₁₂ cell proliferation and apoptosis in a
183 dose-dependent manner and 200 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ MFG-E8 was an optimal dosage for cell
184 growth, the proliferation rate reached a maximum (35.8%), however, over 300
185 $\mu\text{g/mL}^{-1}$, the cell proliferation activity decreased. Therefore, further to clarify the
186 effects of optimal concentration and high concentration of MFG-E8 on intracellular
187 protein metabolites, 200 $\mu\text{g/mL}^{-1}$ and 500 $\mu\text{g/mL}^{-1}$ MFG-E8 were selected for
188 experimental analysis. Compared with 500 $\mu\text{g/mL}^{-1}$ MFG-E8 group, 200 $\mu\text{g/mL}^{-1}$ MFG-E8
189 up-regulated the expression of proteins, such as Histone H3, Histone H2A and Protein
190 S100 ($p < 0.05$), two of the nucleosomal histone families, H3 and H2A, have highly
191 conserved variants with specialized functions, which are essential for development in
192 higher eukaryotes [10, 11]. It was indicated that MFG-E8 induced C₂C₁₂ cell
193 proliferation in a dose-dependent manner, high concentration of MFG-E8 appeared an
194 inhibition activity on the expression of these main proteins in C₂C₁₂ cell; Enolase 1, an
195 important protein in regulating the differentiation and functions of bone

196 marrow-derived mast cells and playing a crucial role in innate and adaptive immune
197 responses [12], was down-regulated compared with 500 ug/ml MFG-E8; And the
198 expression of other 14 proteins were not shown the significant difference ($p>0.05$)
199 (Table 1).

200 **3.2 Gene ontology (GO) analysis of the identified proteins**

201 There were 415 of total proteins having significant differences in MFG-E8 group
202 compared with control group (>1.5 fold), including 123 up-regulation proteins and
203 293 down-regulation proteins. Among them, 15 proteins were statistically significant
204 of up-regulation (MFG-E8/Control >3 fold) and 74 proteins were down-regulation
205 (MFG-E8/Control <0.29 fold) (table 2 and table 3).

206 GO analysis was carried out to obtain biological processes and molecular
207 functions of proteins (89 of the total identified significant differential proteins in the
208 C₂C₁₂ cell) were categorized into biological process, molecular function and cellular
209 components according to their annotation (Fig. 1). The main molecular functions were
210 protein binding, peptidase activity and ATP binding (Fig. 1A). The annotation of cell
211 components showed that these differential proteins were mainly in cytosol, nucleus,
212 membrane, nucleoplasm and cytoskeleton, etc (Fig. 1B). The most common biological
213 process was the catabolic process, followed by translation, metabolic process, cellular
214 response and apoptotic process (Fig. 1 C).

215 **3.3 Differences in proteomic profiles of myoblast C₂C₁₂ cell**

216 We further to investigate the MFG-E8-mediated signaling pathways through
217 KEGG and interaction network analyses of all regulated phosphoproteins. An
218 interaction network of all MFG-E8-regulated protein-protein interaction was
219 constructed by using the program String (Fig. 2). From this complex network, we
220 extracted subnetworks based on KEGG analysis. We identified that MFG-E8 can
221 regulate the expression of protein in C₂C₁₂ cell associated with cell growth,
222 metabolism pathway, immune response pathway, respectively.

223 **3.3.1 The up-regulation of myoblast C₂C₁₂ cell protein**

224 In order to gain a better knowledge of the potential biological functions of
225 MFG-E8 proteins, the differences in proteomic profiles of C₂C₁₂ myoblast cell

226 induced by MFG-E8 were analyzed by LC-MS/MS (Table 1~3). Proteins displaying a
227 3 fold between MFG-E8 and control were considered to be at differential levels if
228 $p < 0.05$. According to the statistical analysis, 6.19% of 1987 proteins showed $p < 0.05$.
229 In total, 15 proteins were considered as major differential proteins (Table 2).

230 Table 2 listed that 15 proteins significant up-regulated in MFG-E8 group
231 compared with control group (MFG-E8/Control > 3 fold). In addition, compared with
232 500 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ MFG-E8, Acylamino acid releasing enzyme, SWI/SNF-related matrix
233 associated actin dependent regulator of chromatin subfamily A member 5 (SWI/SNF
234 -5) and RNA-binding protein 25 (RP25) were significantly up-regulated (1.57-7.68
235 fold) in the 200 $\mu\text{g/mL}$, it was indicated that the high concentration MFG-E8 can
236 negatively regulated the expression of these up-regulated protein compared with 200
237 $\mu\text{g/mL}$, MFG-E8 induced C₂C₁₂ cell proliferation in a dose-dependent manner.

238 The KEGG analysis demonstrated that up-regulation of proteins are mainly
239 involved in PI3K-Akt, MAPK, Focal adhesion, ECM-receptor interaction, Phagosome,
240 Cushing syndrome and Oxidative phosphorylation signaling pathways to regulate cell
241 activity. The KEGG analysis revealed that Vesicle transport through interaction
242 (VTTI), AH receptor-interacting protein (AHRIP) and Acylamino acid releasing
243 enzyme (AARE) participated in the MFG-E8 dependent immune response (table. 2).
244 AARE is a high abundance protein in C₂C₁₂ cell, and the activity of AARE was highly
245 elevated, apparently reflecting the increased population of immune cells in the
246 inflamed lung [13]. Toru et al [13] found that Acylamino Acid Releasing Enzyme is a
247 novel biomarker candidate for lung inflammation, which can be detected in
248 bronchoalveolar lavage fluid in a mix-and-read manner, down-regulation of AARE
249 activity could lead to more prolonged inflammation[14] .

250 The KEGG and subnetwork analysis demonstrated that Integrin alpha-V, 60S
251 ribosomal protein L29 and NADH proteins were identified as target molecules of
252 MFG-E8-dependent cell growth and metabolism signaling pathway. NADH
253 dehydrogenase is the major electron entry site for the mitochondrial electron transport
254 chain and therefore of great significance for mitochondrial ATP generation [15]. The
255 complex dysfunction causes reorganization of cellular respiration and affects

256 metabolic processes in mitochondria with drastic consequences for growth and
257 development [16]. Autophagy is induced in NADH dehydrogenase knockdown cells
258 to remove the damaged mitochondria in order to generate more functional
259 mitochondria. Mitochondrial function is directly involved in both cellular
260 differentiation and apoptotic cell death [17]. These results were consistent with our
261 previous research, which was found that MFG-E8 can increase the quantity of
262 mitochondrion in C₂C₁₂ cells [7] .

263 Integrin alpha-V is necessary for gastrulation movements that regulate vertebrate
264 body asymmetry [18]. Integrin alpha-v mediated through regulation of Toll-like
265 receptors signaling exists to limit excessive B cell responses to self-antigens. In
266 addition, the regulation of Integrin alpha-V mediated TLR signaling not only
267 regulates B cell responses to self-antigens but important for regulating germinal
268 center B cell responses and production of high-affinity antibodies.

269 60S ribosomal protein L29 plays important regulatory functions in the ribosome
270 and helps maintain a normal protein synthetic rate [19]. Several mutations in genes
271 encoding ribosomal proteins or proteins involved in ribosome biogenesis have been
272 associated with human birth defects with clinical features that include skeletal growth
273 deficiencies and/or deformities. These observations strongly link the fundamental
274 processes of ribosome synthesis, growth, and skeletogenesis.

275 Our previous research found that MFG-E8 promoted C₂C₁₂ cells proliferation via
276 PI3K/Akt signal pathway, which can activate P70S6k through phosphorylation of Akt.
277 Therefore, the results was further to prove that MFG-E8 promote C₂C₁₂ cell
278 proliferation mainly via PI3K/Akt signal pathway [9].

279 **3.3.2 The down-regulation of myoblast C₂C₁₂ cell protein**

280 Proteins displaying a 0.29 fold between MFG-E8 and control were considered to
281 be at differential levels if $p < 0.05$. According to the statistical analysis, 14.75% of total
282 proteins showed $p < 0.05$. In total, 74 of 293 down-regulated proteins were considered
283 as differential proteins. Among them, 32 proteins have significant down-regulated in
284 MFG-E8 compared with 500 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ MFG-E8 and control (table 3). In addition,
285 compared with 500 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ MFG-E8, Acylamino acid releasing enzyme, SWI/SNF-5

286 and RNA-binding protein, etc. 12 of 32 proteins were significantly down-regulation
287 (0.02-0.06 fold) in the 200 µg/mL; Meanwhile, Protein YIPF5, Serine/threonine
288 protein phosphatase PGAM5 and CCA tRNA nucleotidyltransferase 1 were
289 significantly up-regulated (1.83-2.62 fold) (table 3).

290 The KEGG and subnetwork analysis suggested that down-regulation of protein
291 mainly mediated the signaling pathway of metabolism process, immunoregulation
292 process (such as insulin resistance, transcriptional misregulation in cancer and
293 Alzheimer disease) and transcriptional process.

294 Insulin-degrading enzyme (IDE) was 0.13 fold lower in MFG-E8 200 group
295 compared to MFG-E8 500 group (Table 3). Insulin-degrading enzyme (IDE) is
296 responsible for the cellular degradation of insulin. In particular, the inhibition of IDE
297 activity results in increased extracellular and intracellular insulin concentration which
298 might be crucial for insulin-dependent regulation of gene expression and cell
299 proliferation [20]. IDE can regulate insulin-like peptide 2 levels, which is crucial for
300 restricting the activation of the PI3K pathway and promoting activation of Forkhead
301 box.

302 The serine/threonine protein phosphatase 2A is a major intracellular protein
303 phosphatase that plays crucial roles in hormone signal transduction and abiotic stress
304 response, and it is involved in cell growth inhibition and antitumor activity [21].

305 Histones H3 is now regarded as integral and dynamic components of the
306 machinery responsible for regulating gene transcription [22]. Many types of cancer
307 and other diseases are associated with translocations or mutations in
308 chromatin-modifying enzymes and regulatory proteins. Epidermal growth factor
309 receptor (EGFR)-independent p38 MAPK and EGFR-dependent ERK1/2 activation
310 by 2,3,5-Tris-(glutathion-S-yl) hydroquinone induce the activation of two downstream
311 signaling factors, histone H3 and Hsp27 phosphorylation, and finally lead to renal cell
312 death [23]. Histone H2AX plays a critical role in regulation of tumor cell apoptosis
313 and acts as a novel human tumor suppressor protein [24].

314 Phosphoglycerate mutase 5 (PGAM5) is an atypical mitochondrial Ser/Thr
315 phosphatase that modulates mitochondrial dynamics and participates in both apoptotic

316 and necrotic cell death. Serine/threonine-protein phosphatase PGAM5 plays a central
317 Role to negatively regulate CD4⁺ T cells by inhibiting NDPK-B-mediated histidine
318 phosphorylation and activation of the K⁺ channel KCa3.1, which is required for
319 TCR-stimulated Ca²⁺ influx and cytokine production [25].

320 In summary, the biological functions of both up-regulation and down-regulation
321 proteins which related to C₂C₁₂ cell proliferation mainly includes metabolic process,
322 regulation of biological process and transport. However, there are some main
323 differences in the relative abundance of cell in the different MFG-E8 concentration,
324 specifically for 60S ribosomal protein L29, NADH dehydrogenase, Integrin alpha-V,
325 Serine/threonine-protein phosphatase 2A activator, Insulin-degrading enzyme and
326 Podoplanin and Guanine nucleotide-binding protein-like 3-like protein. The
327 abundance of these intracellular proteins in the MFG-E8 group was considerably
328 higher than control group, and the high concentration of MFG-E8 (500 µg/mL) can
329 significant inhibit expression of Protein YIPF5, Serine/threonine-protein phosphatase
330 PGAM5 and CCA tRNA nucleotidyltransferase, which lead to metabolic disorder and
331 negative regulation of cell growth. Further detail characterization of the molecular
332 structures of these proteins and their associated biological functions in C₂C₁₂ cell were
333 needed to further research in order to take advantage of MFG-E8 protein for human
334 skeletal muscle development and health.

335 **3.4 Verification of phosphoproteins by Western Blotting**

336 ERK is essential for cell proliferation in general, ERK activation plays a
337 fundamental role for G1/S transition since its activation regulates the assembly of
338 cyclin/CDK complex and is required for the induction of the cyclin D1 protein. The
339 Ras/ERK signaling cascade is classically linked to cell proliferation and survival [26].
340 PI3K also plays a central role in cell signaling and leads to cell proliferation, survival,
341 motility, secretion, and specialized cell responses, such as the respiratory burst of
342 granulocytes [9, 27]. Based on the KEGG analysis, the mechanism of MFG-E8 and
343 the relationship between the PI3K/Akt and MAPK/ERK signal pathway. Fig. 7 was
344 shown that MFG-E8 can up-regulate the expression of phosphorylation of PI3K and
345 ERK. Wortmannin plays a central role to negatively regulate C₂C₁₂ cell by inhibiting

346 PI3K/Akt-mediated PI3 phosphorylation and activation of the PI3K/Akt pathway [9,
347 27]. Furthermore, PI3K and ERK phosphorylation was reduced by combination
348 treatment with wortmannin and U0126, U0126 exerted effects similar to wortmannin
349 on ERK phosphorylation either alone or in combination with wortmannin ($p < 0.05$). It
350 is worth noting that p-PI3K (1.52) and p-PI3K/PI3K (1.40) was significant higher
351 than p-ERK (1.25) and p-ERK/ERK (1.26), respectively ($p < 0.05$). The result showed
352 that PI3K and ERK phosphorylation is induced by MFG-E8 during activation of
353 reserve cells. Moreover, the inhibitors of the PI3K and ERK cascades suppressed
354 reserve cell activation [27]. Therefore, the result indicated that reserve cell activation
355 required phosphorylation of both pathways, PI3K and ERK. Although, MFG-E8
356 regulate C₂C₁₂ cell proliferation mainly through PI3K/Akt signal pathway.

357 Based on the results, we proposed that the mechanism of MFG-E8 on C₂C₁₂ cell
358 proliferation might be described as follows (Fig.4): i) Previous studies have been
359 reported that MFG-E8 promotes the regulatory and catalytic subunit of PI3K and
360 promote C₂C₁₂ cell proliferation via PI3K/Akt/mTOR/P70S6K signal pathway [9]; ii)
361 MFG-E8 bind to cell surface receptors including G-protein coupled receptors and
362 receptor tyrosine kinases resulting in the activation of the GTPase Ras. Raf activity
363 was increased by Ras, and MEK was activated. The downstream target MEK was
364 phosphorylated by the RAS protein kinase and its activity was promoted, resulting in
365 activation of ERK, which ultimately catalyzes phosphorylation of a wide variety of
366 downstream effector proteins, *eg*: phosphatases and transcription factors.

367 **Conclusion**

368 This study provides a quantitative proteomic method was used to investigate the
369 differences in proteomic profiles of myoblast C₂C₁₂ cell induced by MFG-E8. The
370 effect of MFG-E8 on the improvement of sarcopenia and its potential mechanisms
371 underlying the PI3K/Akt and ERK signaling pathway in C₂C₁₂ cells. Further detail
372 characterization of the molecular structures of these proteins and their associated
373 biological functions in C₂C₁₂ cell were needed to further research in order to take
374 advantage of MFG-E8 protein for human skeletal muscle development and health.

375

376 **Acknowledgments**

377

378 **Conflict of interest statement**

379 The authors declare no conflicts of interest

380

381

Reference

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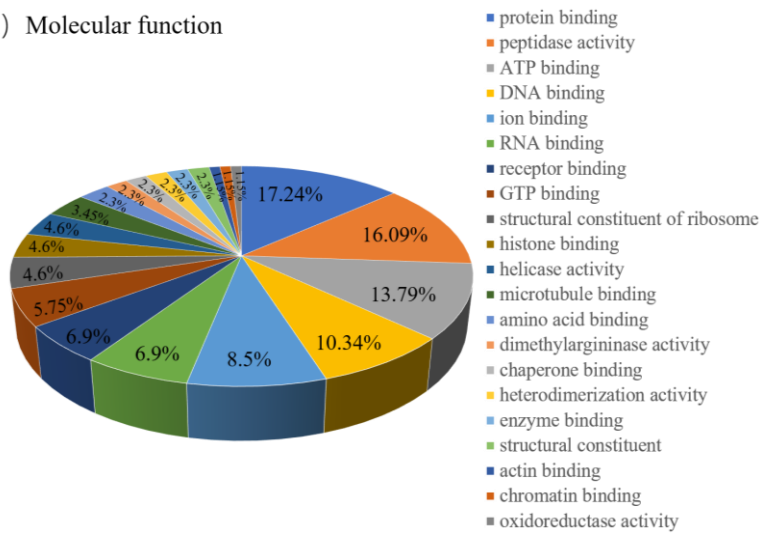
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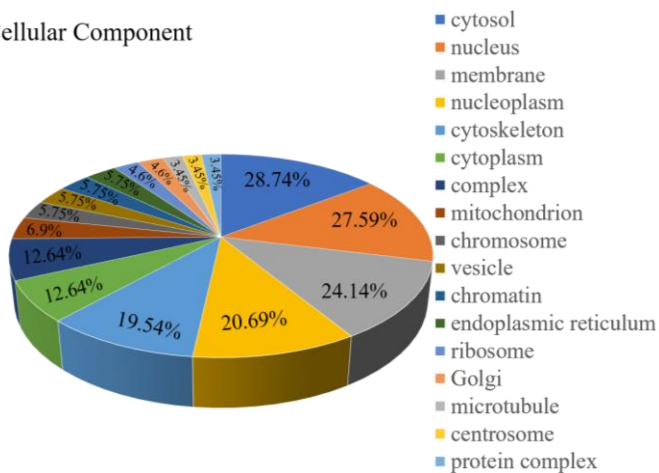
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(A) Molecular function



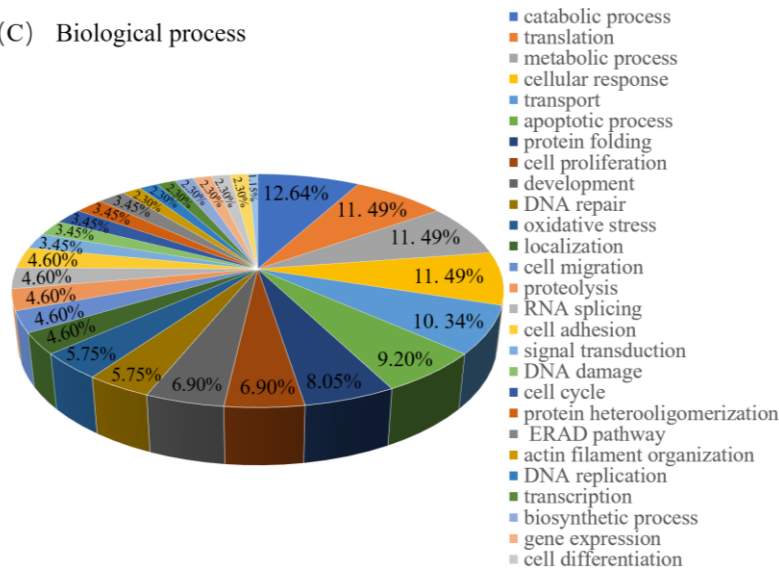
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(B) Cellular Component



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(C) Biological process



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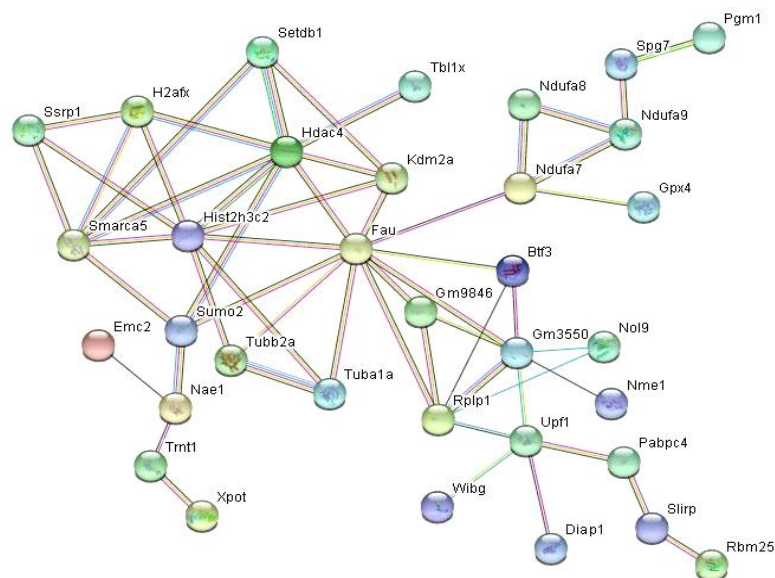
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474 Figure. 1 GO classification results of up-regulation and down-regulation protein of
475 C₂C₁₂ cell induced by MFG-E8. (A) Annotation of molecular function; (B) annotation
476 of cellular component; (C) annotation of biological process. Note: 89 proteins were
477 analysed by GO classification.

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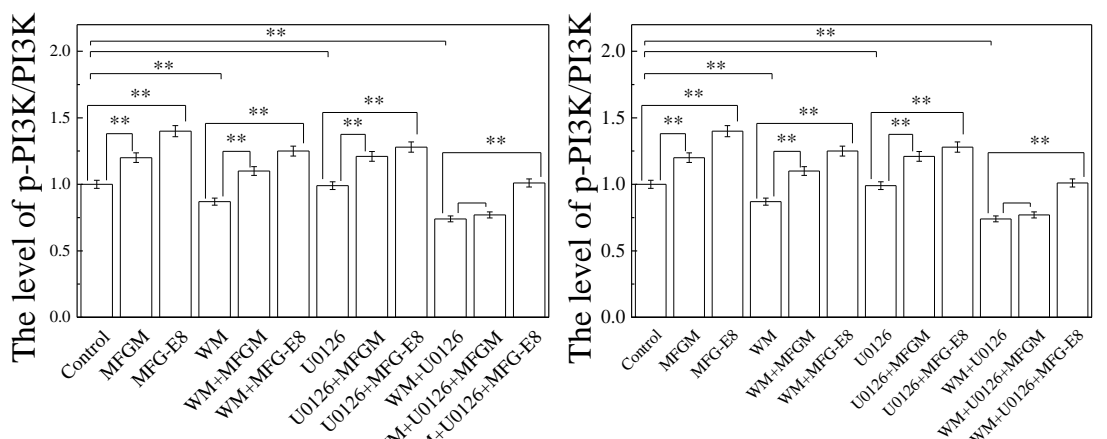
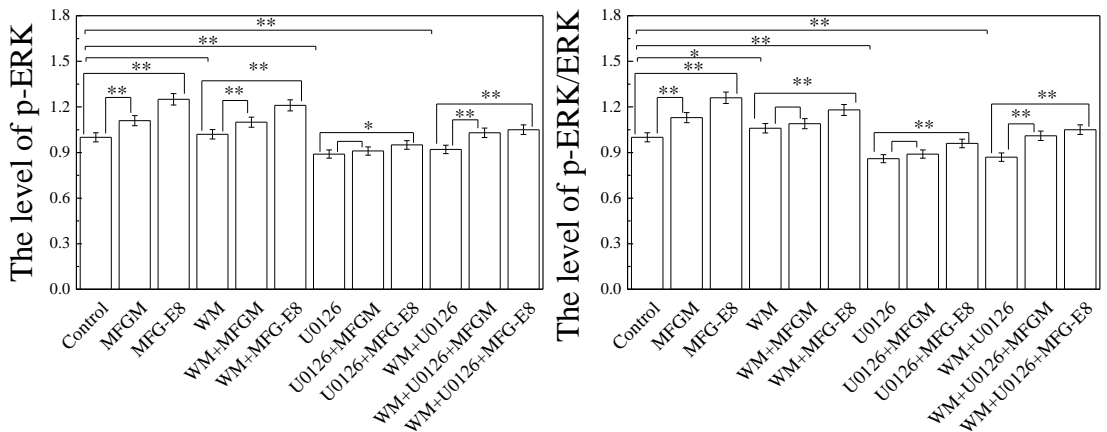
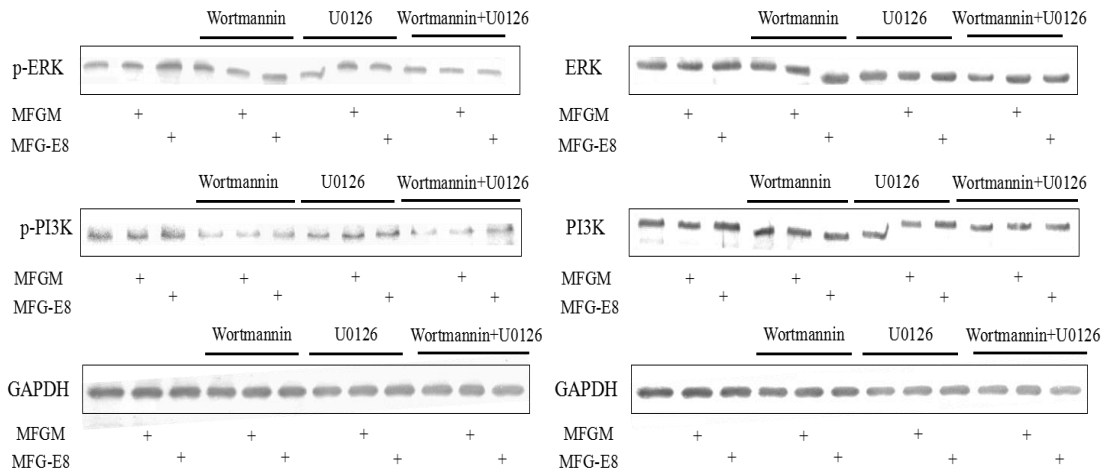
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482 Figure. 2 The network of protein-protein interaction mediated by MFG-E8.

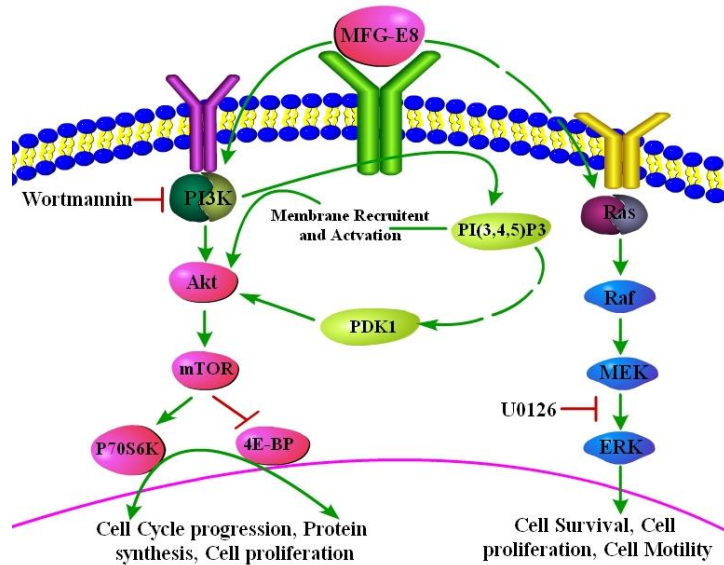
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489 Figure. 3 The effect of MFG-E8 on PI3K, p-PI3K, ERK and p-ERK expression at 48h. The results

490 are expressed as mean±SEM, *p<0.05, **p<0.01 vs. Control or MFGM (n=3).



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494 Figure. 4 The role of MFG-E8 in C₂C₁₂ cell proliferation via PI3K/Akt and ERK signal pathway.

495 Based on the results, we proposed that the mechanism of MFG-E8 on C₂C₁₂ cell proliferation

496 might be described as follows: i) MFG-E8 promotes the regulatory and catalytic subunit of PI3K

497 and promote C₂C₁₂ cell proliferation via PI3K/Akt/mTOR/P70S6K signal pathway [9]; ii)

498 MFG-E8 might be activate Ras, which stimulates the protein kinase activity of Raf, resulting in

499 the phosphorylation of MEK, and finally ERK, which ultimately results in phosphorylation of a

500 wide variety of downstream effector proteins [28, 29]. The diagram of the mechanism of MFG-E8

501 on cell proliferation was modified from Li and Huang et al [9, 30]. .

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Table 1. Higher abundant protein in C₂C₁₂ cell

NO	Protein IDs	Fasta headers	E1/C	E2/C	E1/E2
1	tr B2RTM0	Histone H4	0.80	0.81	0.99
2	tr E0CZ27	Histone H3	0.96	0.78	1.23
3	tr B2RWH3	Histone H2A	0.87	0.63	1.38
4	tr A0JLV3	Histone H2B	0.54	0.64	0.84
5	tr Q4KL81	Actin	0.82	0.88	0.93
6	sp P16045	Galectin-1	0.83	0.82	1.01
7	tr Q5FWJ3	Vimentin	0.72	0.80	0.90
8	tr Q545I9	Protein S100	0.96	0.75	1.28
9	tr A0A0G2JGD2	Protein S100-A4	0.70	0.73	0.96
10	tr D2KHZ9	Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase	0.79	0.99	0.80
11	tr Q58E64	Elongation factor 1-alpha	0.92	0.83	1.11
12	tr Q3V471	Galectin	0.62	0.76	0.82
13	tr Q542G9	Annexin	0.86	1.00	0.86
14	tr Q5FW97	Enolase 1	0.80	1.05	0.76
15	tr Q642L7	MCG13441	0.56	0.58	0.97
16	tr Q545F4	Hspb1 protein	0.75	0.84	0.89
17	tr Q3U292	Uncharacterized protein	0.72	0.74	0.97

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Note: C: Control, E1: MFG-E8: 200 ug/ml, E2: MFG-E8: 500 ug/ml.

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Table 2. The up-regulation of myoblast C₂C₁₂ cell induced by MFG-E8

NO	Protein IDs	Fasta headers	E1/C	E2/C	E1/E2
1	tr Q9Z2P7	Vesicle transport through interaction	9.69	7.58	1.28
2	sp Q8CHP5	Protein wibg homolog	9.45	9.80	0.96
3	tr A0A0R4J107	Acylamino-acid-releasing enzyme	9.22	5.88	1.57
4	tr A0A1L1SUN1	60S ribosomal protein L29	7.04	9.98	0.71
5	sp Q91ZW3	SWI/SNF-related matrix-associated	6.43	0.84	7.68
6	tr F6Q750	Microtubule-actin cross-linking factor 1	4.90	4.31	1.14
7	tr A0A068BGR9	NADH dehydrogenase	4.30	4.33	0.99
8	sp B2RY56	RNA-binding protein 25	4.01	2.54	1.58
9	tr Q4VAA9	Methionine aminopeptidase	3.93	4.24	0.93
10	tr F7C9F6	Aryl hydrocarbon receptor nuclear	3.63	6.94	0.52
11	tr A2AKI5	Integrin alpha-V	3.58	3.31	1.08
12	sp O08915	AH receptor-interacting protein	3.50	3.68	0.95
13	sp Q99LD8	N(G),N(G)-dimethylarginine	3.44	4.31	0.80
14	tr G3UYF9	Prefoldin subunit 6	3.27	2.22	1.47
15	tr A0A0R3P9C8	NADH dehydrogenase	3.23	3.02	1.07

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Note: C: Control, E1: MFG-E8: 200 ug/ml, E2: MFG-E8: 500 ug/ml.

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Table 3. The down-regulation of myoblast C₂C₁₂ cell induced by MFG-E8

	Protein IDs	Fasta headers	E1/C	E2/C	E1/E2
1	tr Q543N6	Serine/threonine-protein phosphatase 2A	0.02	0.24	0.08
2	tr D3Z3F1	Pre-mRNA 3-end-processing factor FIP1	0.03	0.09	0.40
3	tr A1L0V4	Histone H3	0.04	0.32	0.14
4	tr Q58E35	MCG10168	0.05	0.27	0.18
5	tr G5E8N3	Histone-lysine N-methyltransferase	0.05	0.28	0.17
6	tr F6RPJ9	Insulin-degrading enzyme	0.05	0.40	0.13
7	tr B7ZCU2	Abl interactor 1	0.06	0.18	0.32
8	sp Q6PGG6	Guanine nucleotide-binding protein-like 3-like protein	0.11	0.22	0.49
9	tr A3KFU5	Polyadenylate-binding protein	0.13	0.26	0.48
10	sp P68369	Tubulin alpha-1A chain	0.13	0.96	0.14
11	sp D3YYU8	Obscurin-like protein 1	0.14	0.29	0.49
12	sp Q9QZD8	Mitochondrial dicarboxylate carrier	0.15	0.43	0.35
13	sp Q3TZX8	Polynucleotide 5-hydroxyl-kinase NOL9	0.18	0.48	0.38
14	tr E9Q9X1	Dystonin	0.18	0.58	0.31
15	tr Q8K0M3	Sorbs3 protein	0.19	0.56	0.34
16	r G3UXX3	Sepiapterin reductase	0.19	0.85	0.23
17	tr F6XC54	Protein diaphanous homolog 1	0.20	0.41	0.48
18	tr F6SS03	Centromere protein V	0.20	0.35	0.57
19	tr A2AW05	FACT complex subunit SSRP1	0.21	0.95	0.22
20	tr S4R1M2	Scaffold attachment factor B1	0.21	0.48	0.43
21	tr Q14BZ3	Latexin	0.21	0.86	0.24

22	tr A0A0R4J1H0	E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase MARCH5	0.22	0.87	0.25
23	tr D3YZN4	Paraplegin	0.23	0.56	0.42
24	sp Q9EPU0	Regulator of nonsense transcripts 1	0.24	0.96	0.25
25	tr F8WHU8	SRA stem-loop-interacting RNA-binding protein	0.24	0.49	0.49
26	sp Q9D1D4	Transmembrane emp24 domain-containing protein 10	0.24	0.55	0.44
27	sp Q921T2	Torsin-1A-interacting protein 1	0.25	0.98	0.26
28	tr Q544R7	Heme oxygenase	0.26	0.72	0.36
29	sp Q9EQQ2	Protein YIPF5	0.28	0.11	2.62
30	tr EOCZE0	NEDD8-activating enzyme E1 regulatory subunit	0.28	0.66	0.43
31	tr A0A0G2JG95	Serine/threonine-protein phosphatase PGAM5	0.29	0.16	1.83
32	sp Q8K1J6	CCA tRNA nucleotidyltransferase 1	0.29	0.15	1.92

540 Note: C: Control, E1: MFG-E8 200 ug/ml, E2: MFG-E8: 500 ug/ml

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