

# Otorhinolaryngology (ear, nose and throat (ENT) surgery)

Ear, nose and throat (ENT) surgeons diagnose, evaluate and manage diseases of the head and neck.

Their formal title is otorhinolaryngologist or otolaryngologist.

operating theatre

## Life as an ENT surgeon

You'll treat people of all ages with a wide range of diseases which is what makes being an ENT surgeon so interesting and rewarding. You'll see more children than most other surgeons apart from those in paediatrics.

You'll treat conditions that affect the senses such as hearing and balance disorders or smell and taste problems. You'll also treat patients with conditions that affect their voice, breathing and swallowing as well as those with head and neck tumours.

ENT has possibly the widest range of operations of any speciality. You could treat ear conditions such as hearing loss, childhood 'glue ear' (where the middle ear is blocked with fluid), dizziness, ear infections and perforated ear drums.

You'll treat nose conditions such as sinus infections, nasal injuries, tumours and disorders of the sense of smell and throat conditions ranging from tonsillitis through breathing problems to cancers of the mouth or throat.

You'll also be involved in facial cosmetic surgery, for example on ears and noses and facial reconstruction following trauma or cancer. You will work closely with a range of other specialists including plastic surgeons, maxillofacial surgeons and ophthalmologists.

You will spend a higher proportion of your time in outpatient clinics seeing day cases and less time in surgery than other surgeons. You will not be on-call as much as in other surgical specialities, making it easier to achieve a work-life balance.

You will make use of the latest technology including robots and lasers to treat patients which often means minimally invasive surgery and faster recovery times. Advances in care mean that you can often deliver life-changing treatment, for example helping a profoundly deaf person gain a sense of hearing and sound for the first time after cochlear implant surgery.

## How much can I earn?

You'll first earn a salary when you start your [foundation training](#) <sup>[1]</sup> after medical school. Find out details of current salary ranges for foundation and specialty training, [SAS doctors](#) <sup>[2]</sup> and consultants on the ['Pay for doctors'](#) <sup>[3]</sup> page.

## How about the benefits?

- make a difference
- flexible and part-time working
- high income early in your career
- work anywhere in the world
- excellent pension scheme
- good holiday entitlement
- NHS discounts in shops and restaurants

## Must-have skills

- excellent communication skills to manage a wide range of relationships with colleagues, and patients and their families
- emotional resilience, a calm temperament and the ability to work well under pressure
- teamwork and the capacity to lead multidisciplinary teams
- problem-solving and diagnostic skills
- outstanding organisational ability and effective decision-making skills
- first-class time and resource management for the benefit of patients
- a high degree of manual dexterity
- superb hand-eye co-ordination, excellent vision, and visuospatial awareness
- physical stamina to cope with the demands of surgery

## Entry requirements

Your first step is medical school. Typically, you'll need excellent GCSEs and three A or A\* passes at A level including chemistry for a five-year undergraduate degree in medicine. Many medical schools also ask for biology and others may require maths or physics.

If you already have a degree, you could study for a four-year postgraduate degree in medicine.

You'll need to pass an interview and admissions test. You'll be asked to show how you demonstrate the NHS values such as compassion and respect.

Some medical schools look to recruit a mix of students from different backgrounds and geographical areas, so your educational and economic background and family circumstances

could be considered as part of your application.

**"The crossover and interaction with other specialties is vast in ENT, including neurosurgery, plastics [plastic surgery], oral and maxillofacial surgery. We work in multidisciplinary teams with physician colleagues and other specialists including speech and language therapists and physiotherapists, which is hugely enjoyable."**

**Read Charles' story** <sup>[4]</sup>.

## **What are my chances of starting a career in ENT?**

In 2020 there were 131 applications for 23 specialty training places (a competition ratio <sup>[5]</sup> of 5.70).

## **How to become an ENT surgeon**

After medical school, you'll join the paid two-year foundation programme <sup>[6]</sup> where you'll work in six placements in different settings.

After your foundation programme, you can apply for paid specialty training <sup>[7]</sup> to become an ENT surgeon, which will take a minimum of seven years.

You may be able to train part time, for example for health reasons or if you have family or caring responsibilities.

## **Where a career as an ENT surgeon can take you**

You could:

- specialise or conduct research in areas such as conditions of just the ear, nose or throat, paediatric ENT, skull base surgery or facial plastics
- teach medical students or postgraduate students in training
- get involved in research at universities, the NHS or private sector

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Search

- **Specialty Doctor in Otolaryngology (ENT)**

Luton, LU4 0DZ

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor in Otolaryngology \(ENT\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[8]</sup>

- **Specialty Doctor in ENT (Otolaryngology)**

Huddersfield, HD3 3EA

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor in ENT \(Otolaryngology\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[9]</sup>

- **Locum Consultant ENT Surgeon**

Wakefield, WF1 4DG

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Locum

Employer:

The Mid Yorkshire Teaching NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant ENT Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[10]</sup>

- **Consultant Head & Neck ENT Surgeon**

London, NW1 2BU

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Head & Neck ENT Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[11]</sup>

- **Consultant ENT Head & Neck Cancer Surgeon**

Rhyl, LL18 5UJ

Salary:

£106000.00 to £154760.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant ENT Head & Neck Cancer Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[12]</sup>

- **ENT HCA**

Worcester, WR1 1DB

Salary:

£250.00

Type:

Locum

Employer:

18 Week Support Limited

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT HCA job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[13]</sup>

- **ENT HCA**

Brighton, BN1 3XP

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Locum

Employer:

18 Week Support Limited

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT HCA job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[14]</sup>

- **ENT Consultant**

Brighton, BN1 3XP

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Locum

Employer:

18 Week Support Limited

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Consultant job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[15]</sup>

- **ENT Doctor**

Sheffield, S9 1XH

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[16]</sup>

- **ENT HCA**

Camberley, GU16 7QH

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Locum

Employer:

18 Week Support Limited

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT HCA job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[17]</sup>

- **ENT Doctor**

Leicester, LE1 2BU

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[18]</sup>

- **ENT Doctor**

Leeds, LS16 6EB

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[19]</sup>

- **ENT Consultant**

Macclesfield, SK11 6HB

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Consultant job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[20]</sup>

- **ENT Doctor**

Swindon, SN3 3RB

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[21]</sup>

- **ENT Consultant**

Sunderland, SR47TP

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Consultant job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[22]</sup>

- **ENT Consultant**

Worcester, WR1 1DB

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Locum

Employer:

18 Week Support Limited

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Consultant job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[23]</sup>

- **ENT Consultant**

Leeds, LS16 6EB

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Consultant job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[24]</sup>

- **ENT Doctor**

Nottingham , NG8 5DQ

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[25]</sup>

- **ENT Admissions Officer**

PLYMOUTH, PL6 8DH

Salary:

£24625.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Secondment

Employer:

University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Admissions Officer job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

<sup>[26]</sup>

- **Consultant ENT Paediatric**

Portsmouth, PO6 3LY

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:



Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust  
[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant ENT Paediatric job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[27]</sup>

- **ENT Healthcare Assistant**

Gloucester, GL1 3PX

Salary:

£26000.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

HealthHarmonie

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Healthcare Assistant job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

<sup>[28]</sup>

- **ENT Consultants & Registrars**

Barnsley, S71 1TH

Doncaster, DN40TG

Sheffield, S5 6AZ

Sheffield, S8 0YH

Sheffield, S6 1GA

Rotherham, S639EH

Barnsley, S72 8SU

Sheffield, S10 5UB

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Locum

Employer:

HealthHarmonie

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Consultants & Registrars job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[29]</sup>

- **ENT Support Secretary**

Ipswich, IP4 5PD

Salary:

£24625.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Secondment

Employer:

East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Support Secretary job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

<sup>[30]</sup>

- **ENT Consultant - FGH**

Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 4LF

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Consultant - FGH job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[31]

- **ENT Consultants & Registrars**

Birmingham, B15 3DP

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Locum

Employer:

HealthHarmonie

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Consultants & Registrars job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [32]

- **Locum Consultant in ENT**

Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 6QG

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University Hospital of North Midlands NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant in ENT job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[33]

- **Trust StR Higher in ENT**

Plymouth, PL6 8DH

Salary:

£61825.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Trust StR Higher in ENT job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[34]

- **ENT Head & Neck Senior Clinical Fellow**

Kingston upon Thames, KT2 7QB

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Kingston and Richmond NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Head & Neck Senior Clinical Fellow job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [35]

- **Consultant in ENT with special interest in Otology**

Ipswich, IP4 5PD

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in ENT with special interest in Otology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [36]

- **Consultant in ENT with specialist interest in Rhinology & Paeds**

London, HA1 3UJ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in ENT with specialist interest in Rhinology & Paeds job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [37]

- **Speech and Language Therapist ENT/Head & Neck - Bank Worker**

DORCHESTER, DT1 2JY

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Bank

Employer:

Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Speech and Language Therapist ENT/Head & Neck - Bank Worker job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[38]</sup>

- **Locum Consultant ENT - Specialist Interest in Head & Neck Surgery**

Watford, WD18 0HB

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

West Hertfordshire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant ENT - Specialist Interest in Head & Neck Surgery job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[39]</sup>

- **Clinical Fellow (Higher ST6+/Senior Post CCT) in ENT (Neurotology)**

Cambridge, CB2 0QQ

Salary:

£70425.00 to £72211.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Cambridge University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Fellow \(Higher ST6+/Senior Post CCT\) in ENT \(Neurotology\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[40]</sup>

- **Consultant in Anaesthesia With an interest in ENT and Orthopaedics**

London, E1 1FR

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barts Health NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Anaesthesia With an interest in ENT and Orthopaedics job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[41]</sup>

- **Clinical Fellow (Higher ST6+/Senior Post CCT) in ENT (Otology)**

Cambridge, CB2 0QQ

Salary:

£70425.00 to £72211.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Cambridge University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Fellow \(Higher ST6+/Senior Post CCT\) in ENT \(Otology\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[42]</sup>

- **Consultant Otolaryngologist (spec int in Paediatrics)**

London, W2 1NY

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Otolaryngologist \(spec int in Paediatrics\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[43]</sup>

- **Consultant in Otorhinolaryngology (Facial Plastics & Rhinology)**

Norwich, NR4 7UY

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Otorhinolaryngology \(Facial Plastics & Rhinology\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[44]</sup>

- **Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon (Hip/Knee surgeon)**

Torquay, TQ2 7SS

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon \(Hip/Knee surgeon\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[45]</sup>

- **Consultant Colorectal Surgeon**

Bournemouth & Poole, BH7 7DW

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Colorectal Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[46]</sup>

- **Consultant Urological Surgeon**

Oxford, OX3 7LE

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Urological Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[47]</sup>

- **Consultant Vascular Surgeon**

Exeter, EX2 5DW

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Vascular Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[48]</sup>

- **Consultant Urological Surgeon**

Torquay, TQ2 7AA

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Urological Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[49]</sup>

- **Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon**

Cramlington, NE23 6NZ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[50]</sup>

- **Consultant - Urological Surgeon**

Slough, SL2 4HL

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant - Urological Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[51]</sup>

- **Consultant Dermatology Surgeon**

Canterbury, CT1 3NG

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Dermatology Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[52]</sup>

- **Consultant Oculoplastic Surgeon**

Maidstone, ME16 9QQ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Oculoplastic Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[53]</sup>

- **Consultant Breast Surgeon**

Ilford, IG3 8YB

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Breast Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[54]</sup>

- **Consultant Vascular Surgeon**

Sheffield, S5 7AU

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Vascular Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[55]</sup>

- **Consultant Orthopaedic Sarcoma Surgeon**

Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4LP

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Orthopaedic Sarcoma Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[56]</sup>

- **Consultant Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon**

Northampton, NN1 5DB

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00



Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Northampton General Hospital

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[57]</sup>

- **Colorectal Surgeon – General Colorectal**

Birmingham, B15 2TH

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Colorectal Surgeon – General Colorectal job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[58]</sup>

- **Locum Consultant Thoracic Surgeon**

Cambridge Bio Medical Campus, CB2 0AY

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Thoracic Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[59]</sup>

- **Consultant Colorectal/Peritoneal Surgeon**

Manchester, M20 4BX

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

The Christie NHS FT

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Colorectal/Peritoneal Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[60]</sup>

- **Locum Consultant Plastic Surgeon**

Sheffield, S10 2TH

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Locum

Employer:

Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Plastic Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[61]</sup>

- **Consultant Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon**

Rotherham, S60 2UD

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[62]</sup>

- **Consultant Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon**

London, E1 1FR

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barts Health NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[63]</sup>

- **Orthopaedic Surgeon Hip & Knee**

Sutton Coldfield, B75 5BL

Salary:

£7200.00

Type:

Bank

Employer:

Medinet Clinical Services Limited

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Orthopaedic Surgeon Hip & Knee job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[64]</sup>

- **Consultant Colorectal/General Surgeon**

Sunderland, SR4 7TP  
South Shields, NE34 0PL

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Colorectal/General Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[65]</sup>

- **Locum Consultant Dermatology Surgeon**

Canterbury, CT1 3NG

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Dermatology Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[66]</sup>

- **Further information**

These organisations have further information about being an ENT surgeon, particularly as your career progresses. Take a look.

[British Association of Head and Neck Oncologists](#) <sup>[67]</sup>

[British Association of Paediatric Otolaryngology](#) <sup>[68]</sup>

[British Association of Otorhinolaryngologists \(ENT UK\)](#) <sup>[69]</sup>

[British Rhinological Society](#) <sup>[70]</sup>

[British Society of Otology](#) <sup>[71]</sup>

[Joint Committee on Intercollegiate Examinations](#) <sup>[72]</sup>

[Royal College of Surgeons](#) <sup>[73]</sup>

[Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh](#) <sup>[74]</sup>

[Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow](#) <sup>[75]</sup>

## Other roles that may interest you

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