

INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

GENERAL

1 Acta Pharmacologica Sinica, published monthly in English, is the official journal of the Chinese Pharmacological Society and Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Acta Pharmacologica Sinica is listed in BIOSIS, CA, CSA Medical Biotechnology, CSA Bioengineering, CSA Neuroscience, Current Contents/Life Sciences, Excerpta Medica, FSTA, Global Health, IndexCopernicus, Index Medicus/MEDLINE, Kagaku Gijutsu Bunken Sokuho (Japan), VINITI (Russia), Research Alert, Science Citation Index, SciSearch, Scopus, Tropical Diseases Bulletin, *etc.*

Acta Pharmacologica Sinica welcomes current **Original articles** on all aspects of the life sciences and related areas, both experimental and clinical, from any part of the world. **Reviews** based primarily on authors' own research of internationally important topics are also welcome.

Manuscripts should be prepared in accordance with the "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Writing and Editing for Biomedical Publications", as presented at <http://www.ICMJE.org/>.

2 Prior or duplicate publications are not accepted. All manuscripts, especially data, must not be published or submitted for publication elsewhere. English translations of published articles are not acceptable. The authors should make a full statement on submission about all submissions and previous reports that might be regarded as redundant or duplicate publications of the same or very similar work.

The source of financial grants and other funding must be acknowledged, including a frank declaration of the authors' industrial links and affiliations. The contribution of colleagues or institutions should also be acknowledged.

MANUSCRIPT CONTENTS

3 Title page

The title page carries the title, the authors, the authors' affiliations, and footnotes.

Title: The title must be informative, specific, and brief (<150 characters, including spaces). Words should be chosen carefully for retrieval purposes. All nonfunctional words should be deleted, such as "the," "studies on," "observations of," and "roles of," *etc.*

Authors: Authors should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for the content. Authorship should be based on all of the following conditions: 1) substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; 2) involvement in drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and 3) final approval of the version to be published.

Any changes in authorship must be approved in writing by all authors.

Capitalize all the letters in the surname, spell out the given name in full, and include a hyphen between the syllables of Chinese names. For example: Jin-an LI, Ji-nan OU-YANG, Noboru YANAIHARA, Theo Anthonie VAN DER HOEVEN, Kenneth Patrick DU BOIS, Paul Vincent HARPER Jr, John Davison ROCKEFELLER III.

Affiliation: The affiliation is the institute or laboratory where the work was done.

Footnotes: Footnotes may include 1) the corresponding author's name and E-mail address, and 2) present address.

4 Key words

Provide 3–10 key words or phrases that will assist readers and indexers in cross-indexing this study. Use terms recommended by the US National Library of Medicine's Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) browser list at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/MBrowser.html>. For example: brain ischemia (not cerebral ischemia), cardiomegaly (not heart hypertrophy), neoplasm (not cancer), immunohistochemistry (not immunocytochemistry).

If a suitable MeSH term is not available, a more general term suitable for indexing may be used. Do not use unqualified and unhelpful terms such as "organic compounds" and "animal experiments."

5 Abstract

The Abstract of original articles should be in structured form (<250 words), under the following headings: "Aim" (the purpose of this study or why you intended to do the study), "Methods", "Results" (main data), and "Conclusion" (in a definite, conclusive, and short statement, not indefinite, vague, or suggestive sentences). The abstract must be informative rather than indicative. Emphasize the new and important aspects of the study.

6 Introduction

The Introduction summarizes the rationale for the study and gives a concise background. Use references to provide the most salient background rather than an exhaustive review. The last sentence should concisely state your purpose for carrying out the study (not methods, results, or conclusion). Any uncommon or new compound should be identified by its chemical name and structural formula.

7 Materials

Drug nomenclature: International Nonproprietary Names (INN) or generic names should be employed whenever possible. Avoid code designations, for example, calcimycin (not A-23187), enalaprilat (not MK-422). If necessary, the proprietary (brand or trade or commercial) name may be added once on first mention of the compound, in parentheses.

The first letter of the drug name should be lower-case

for INN or generic names (eg, ranitidine and captopril), but capitalized for proprietary names (eg, Zantac and Capoten). Manufacturers (not distributors or senders) and specifications should be given for main drugs, chemicals, and instruments.

Species nomenclature: The scientific name [genus, species (in italics) and authority] for all microorganisms, plants, and animals should be given. Simple chemical names may be used in certain places, for example, CO₂.

Experimental subjects: Indicate the grade of your animals and give the certificate number of the animal breeder. Rats and mice of at least Grade II can be reported. The sex, age, and measured body weights of tested animals or humans should be expressed as mean, standard deviation, and total range.

Ethics: When reporting experiments on human subjects or animals, a statement by the authors should be included in the Materials section. Human experiments may be performed only in accordance with the ethical standards provided by the responsible committee of the institution at which the work was carried out and in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki (as revised in Edinburgh 2000), available at <http://www.wma.net/>. The patients' names, initials, or hospital numbers should be omitted. Animal experiments should follow the instructions for the care and use provided by the institution.

8 Methods

The Methods section should offer technical information to allow the experiments to be repeated. Describe new methods or modifications and identify any unusual instruments (manufacturers and types) and procedures in detail.

For the natural products, either pure compound or crude extracts, the preparation should be performed with strict quality control. Thus enough information must be given so that the experiments could be reproduced.

Drug administration: Identify the drug administration schedule, for example, dose (base or salt) and route of administration. The routes of administration may be abbreviated, for example, intraarterial (ia), intracerebroventricular (icv), intragastric gavage (ig), intramuscular (im), intraperitoneal (ip), intravenous (iv), *per os* (po), subcutaneous (sc).

Statistical methods: Statistical methods should be described when they are used to verify the results. Suitable techniques should be chosen for the statistical treatments, for example, *t*-test (group or paired comparisons), chi-squared test, Redit, probit, logit, regression (linear, curvilinear, or stepwise), correlation, analysis of variance (ANOVA), analysis of covariance, etc.

Only homogeneous data can be averaged. Standard deviations are preferred to standard errors. Give the number of observations and subjects (*n*). Losses in observations, such as dropouts from the study should be reported.

Values such as ED₅₀, LD₅₀, IC₅₀ should have their 95% confidence limits calculated and compared by weighted probit analysis (Bliss and Finney).

The word "significantly" should be replaced by its synonyms (if it indicates extent) or the *P* value (if it indicates statistical significance).

Quantities, units, and numerical values (see ISO 31-0: 1992): Physical quantities are printed in italic type, for example, *dp/dt* (not dP/dT). A subscript that represents a symbol for a physical quantity is printed in italic type, for example, *X_p* (*p*: pressure), *T*_{1/2} (but *T*_{1/2a}). A solidus (/) should not be followed by a multiplication sign or a division sign unless parentheses are inserted to avoid any ambiguity. In complicated cases, negative powers or parentheses should be used, for example, mol·L⁻¹·s⁻¹, not mol/L/s. Multiple prefix (eg, μg) should not be used.

SI units (Système International d'Unités) must be used. For example: 25.4 mm (not 1 inch), g/L (not mg/mL), mol/L (not M or N). When an Arabic number precedes an SI unit, the unit symbol should be used rather than the full name of the unit, for example, 1 s (one second), 2 min (two minutes), 3 h (three hours), 4 d (four days), d 4 (the fourth day). The symbol ‰ ("per mill" or per thousand) should be avoided. Abbreviations such as ppm and ppb should not be used. No unit is required for relative molecular mass (*M_r*).

Dosage is expressed as per kg (even in mice). Concentration in solution is expressed as per L, not per mL. Values for rpm should be converted into gravity (×g). Absorbance (*A*) values are preferred to optical density (*OD*) values.

Symbols are not pluralized (eg, 9 kg, not kgs) nor followed by a period (eg, min, not min.). Indicate the numerical value as the ratio of the quantity to the unit (eg, λ/nm=589). This is particularly useful in graphs and in the headings of columns in tables.

Use 12.4 mm (not 0.0124 m), 5 μmol (not 5×10⁻⁶ mol), 3–8 g, 3%–8%, 3 m×8 m×2 m, 8±3 g, (8±3) nmol·L⁻¹·g⁻¹ (protein).

Do not include more digits than are justified by the accuracy of the determinations. For example: a dog weighs 9 kg (not 9000 g, which implies an accuracy of 1 g). In a sample, the effective digits are determined by the variation within the sample, that is, one-third of the standard deviation. For example: 8.6±2.9 kg (not 8619±2930 g, nor 9±3 kg).

The sign for multiplication of numbers is a cross (×) or a raised dot (·). Leave a space between the numerical value and the unit symbol, eg, 37 °C. Calendar dates may be written in two forms: 2006-06-05 or 5th June, 2006.

For isotopically labelled compounds, use a square bracket directly attached to the front of the name (word) or formula. Examples: [¹⁴C]urea, [α-³²P]ATP (not AT³²P), sodium [¹⁴C]formate, [¹⁴C,²⁻¹³C]acetaldehyde, [*carboxy*-¹⁴C]leucine, and [³H]ethanol. However, both [¹³¹I]iodoalbumin and ¹³¹I-albumin are correct.

The SI unit for radioactivity is becquerel (Bq): 1 Ci=37×10⁹ disintegrations per second=37 GBq. The disintegrations per minute (dpm), not counts per minute (cpm), should be converted to Bq for presentation.

9 Results

Emphasize or summarize only important observations. Simple data may be set forth in the text with no need for tables or figures. Give absolute values, not merely percentages, particularly for the control values.

Present your results followed by (Table 1 or Figure 2). Do not write "Table 1 shows that" or "Figure 2 demonstrated that." Reserve extensive interpretations of the results for the Discussion section.

Tables and figures: Each table or figure should be self-explanatory (intelligible without reference to the text). Avoid repetitions of data in the text, tables, and figures. Tables are preferable to figures, especially if the figure is a simple histogram.

Legends for figures should be typed or printed out using double spacing, starting on a separate page. Briefly explain the symbols, arrows, numbers, or letters in the illustrations. Identify the method of staining and magnification of the photomicrographs (eg, HE stain, $\times 900$).

If exponents of 10 are used, it should be clear what number is to be multiplied. For instance, under the heading of " $10^4 \times \text{Cells}$ " a value of 8 designates 80 000 cells, and under the heading of " $10^3 \times \text{Concentration/mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ " the value of 1.5 designates $0.0015 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ or $1.5 \text{ mmol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$.

When relative percentages are used, the absolute data should be indicated (particularly for the control values). Indicate the number and character of observations and subjects. Indicate what the n was, eg, $n=9$ cells from 9 rats.

Identify statistical significance by superscripts in front of the probabilities (P):

^a $P > 0.05$, ^b $P < 0.05$, ^c $P < 0.01$ vs A;

^d $P > 0.05$, ^e $P < 0.05$, ^f $P < 0.01$ vs B;

^g $P > 0.05$, ^h $P < 0.05$, ⁱ $P < 0.01$ vs C; etc.

Tables: Give each column a short or abbreviated heading, in which the quantity and the unit are usually separated by a solidus (/). More than one solidus is not allowed in a single item. If an experimental condition is the same for all of the tabulated experiments (eg, the n), give this information in a statement accompanying the table.

Figures: Freehand or typewritten lettering is unacceptable. Choose the intervals so that the interpolation will permit accurate evaluation of the points.

Use standard symbols: \circ , \bullet , \times , \square , \blacksquare , \triangle , \blacktriangle . The symbols and curves can be identified in the figure itself or in the legend. Broader lines should be drawn for curves than for the axes. Avoid wasting spaces. Combine related curves in a single figure when possible. A composite of curves will save space and convey more information. Do not extrapolate the curves, nor extend the axes far beyond the contents.

When feasible, curves should be transformed into straight lines with the aid of logarithm, reciprocal, probit, logit, etc. Any curve fitting should be accompanied by a regression equation. Indicate the scales by short index lines; repeat these index lines on the opposite sides unless more than one scale is used. In general, the height:width ratio of figures should be 2:3.

The data for drawing the figures should be typed on separate sheets and submitted along with the figures.

Photographs must be of the highest quality with good contrast. Color photographs are welcome. With photomicrographs, crop to show only the essential parts: a second small photomicrograph at higher magnification is usually more

informative than a single large one. Scale markers (eg, $1 \mu\text{m}$) should be put inside the photomicrographs.

For initial submission PDF format is preferred. The acceptable formats for the figures are PDF, Tiff, JPEG, and PSD. Adequate figure resolution is essential to a high-quality print of your paper. Raster line art should carry an absolute minimum resolution of 600 dpi, and for grey scale and color artworks, a minimum resolution of 300 dpi is required.

10 Discussion

The Discussion section should deal with the interpretations of your results. Emphasize any new and important findings and relate your results to other studies. Discuss the shortcomings in your experiments. New hypotheses and recommendations may be proposed when warranted.

A review-like treatment is unacceptable. Any discussion that could be written before the study was carried out should be deleted or transposed to the Introduction section. Focus the discussion on your results. Avoid unqualified statements and digressions from the topic. Avoid claiming priority and alluding to work that has not been completed.

End with a brief conclusion, which should be linked with the goal stated in the Introduction. Do not include the obvious statement that further work is necessary or planned. In your conclusion avoid indefinite or ambiguous wording, such as "possible," "perhaps," "maybe," "probably," and "likely." If you are not sure of your conclusion, do more experiments.

11 Acknowledgments

Acknowledgments may briefly include 1) sources of financial support; 2) contributors that do not warrant authorship; 3) technical help; and 4) material support.

12 Author Contribution

Authors must indicate their specific contributions to the published work. Examples of designations include: XXX designed research; XXX performed research; XXX contributed new reagents or analytic tools; XXX analyzed data; XXX wrote the paper. An author may list more than one contribution, and more than one author may have contributed to the same aspect.

13 References

References must be verified by the present authors against the original documents. References are numbered consecutively with Arabic numerals. When cited in the text, reference numbers are superscript, in brackets.

Avoid using abstracts as references. "Unpublished data," "classified periodicals," and "personal communications" can not be used as references. Old references should be replaced with updated ones. Papers accepted but not yet published may be used as references.

The titles of journals should be abbreviated according to the "List of Journals Indexed" in Index Medicus (www.nlm.nih.gov). List all authors, but if the number exceeds 6 give 6 followed by *et al*. Examples follow.

Articles in journals

13.1 Standard journal article:

Martin P, Riley R, Thompson P, Williams D, Back D, Owen A. Effect of prototypical inducers on ligand activated nuclear

receptor regulated drug disposition genes in rodent hepatic and intestinal cells. *Acta Pharmacol Sin* 2010; 31: 51–65.

13.2 Organization as author: International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals. *Ann Intern Med* 1997; 126: 36–47.

13.3 No author given: Cancer in South Africa [editorial]. *S Afr Med J* 1994; 84: 15.

13.4 Article not in English: Chachin M, Ohmura T, Hayashi N, Nishimura Y, Satoh H. Pharmacological and clinical profile of telmisartan, a selective angiotensin II type-1 receptor blocker. *Nippon Yakurigaku Zasshi* 2004; 124: 31–9. Japanese.

13.5 Volume with supplement: Avis NE, Deimling GT. Cancer survivorship and aging. *Cancer* 2008; 113(S12): 3519–29.

13.6 Volume with part: Ozben T, Nacitarhan S, Tuncer N. Plasma and urine sialic acid in non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus. *Ann Clin Biochem* 1995; 32 (Pt 3): 303–6.

13.7 Pagination in Roman numerals: Fisher GA, Sikic BI. Drug resistance in clinical oncology and hematology. Introduction. *Hematol Oncol Clin North Am* 1995; 9: xi–xii.

13.8 Type of article indicated as needed: Enzensberger W, Fischer PA. Metronome in Parkinson's disease [letter]. *Lancet* 1996; 347: 1337.

13.9 Article republished with corrections: Mansharamani M, Chilton BS. The reproductive importance of P-type ATPases. *Mol Cell Endocrinol* 2002; 188: 22–5. Corrected and republished from: *Mol Cell Endocrinol* 2001; 183: 123–6.

13.10 Article published electronically ahead of the print version: Verschuur EM, Steyerberg EW, Tilanus HW, Polinder S, Essink-Bot ML, Tran KT, *et al.* Nurse-led follow-up of patients after oesophageal or gastric cardia cancer surgery: a randomised trial. *Br J Cancer* 2008 Dec 9. doi:10.1038/sj.bjc.6604811.

Books and other monographs

13.11 Personal author(s): Ringsven MK, Bond D. Gerontology and leadership skills for nurses. 2nd ed. Albany (NY): Delmar Publishers; 1996.

13.12 Editor(s), compiler(s) as author: Norman IJ, Redfern SJ, editors. Mental health care for elderly people. New York: Churchill Livingstone; 1996.

13.13 Organization as author and publisher: Institute of Medicine (US). Looking at the future of the Medicaid program. Washington: The Institute; 1992.

13.14 Chapter in a book: Milton AS. Prostaglandins and fever. In: Sharma HS, Westman J, editors. Progress in brain research; v 115. Brain function in hot environment. Amsterdam: Elsevier; 1998. p 129–39.

13.15 Conference proceedings: Kimura J, Shibasaki H, editors. Recent advances in clinical neurophysiology. Proceedings of the 10th International Congress of EMG and Clinical Neuro-physiology; 1995 Oct 15–19; Kyoto, Japan. Amsterdam: Elsevier; 1996.

13.16 Conference paper: Bengtsson S, Solheim BG. Enforcement of data protection, privacy and security in medical informatics. In: Lun KC, Degoulet P, Piemme TE, Rienhoff O, editors. MEDINFO 92. Proceedings of the 7th World Congress

on Medical Informatics; 1992 Sep 6–10; Geneva, Switzerland. Amsterdam: North-Holland; 1992. p 1561–5.

13.17 Scientific or technical report: Issued by funding/sponsoring agency: Smith P, Golladay K. Payment for durable medical equipment billed during skilled nursing facility stays. Final report. Dallas (TX): Dept of Health and Human Services (US), Office of Evaluation and Inspections; 1994 Oct. Report No: HHSI-GOEI-69200860.

13.18 Dissertation: Kaplan SJ. Post-hospital home health care: the elderly's access and utilization [dissertation]. St Louis (MO): Washington Univ; 1995.

13.19 Patent: Larsen CE, Trip R, Johnson CR, inventors; Novoste Corporation, assignee. Methods for procedures related to the electrophysiology of the heart. US patent 5 529 067. 1995 Jun 25.

Other published material

13.20 Newspaper article: Lee G. Hospitalizations tied to ozone pollution: study estimates 50 000 admissions annually. *The Washington Post* 1996 Jun 21; Sect A: 3 (col 5).

13.21 Legal material: Public law: Preventive Health Amendments of 1993, Pub L 103–183, 107 Stat 2226 (1993 Dec 14).

Unpublished material

13.22 In press: Liu HY, Wang ZM, Bai Y, Wang M, Li Y, Wei S, *et al.* Different BAG-1 isoforms have distinct functions in modulating chemotherapeutic-induced apoptosis in breast cancer cells. *Acta Pharmacol Sin* 2009; 30: in press.

Electronic material

13.23 CD-ROM: Anderson SC, Poulsen KB. Anderson's electronic atlas of hematology [CD-ROM]. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2002.

13.24 Journal article on the Internet: Abood S. Quality improvement initiative in nursing homes: the ANA acts in an advisory role. *Am J Nurs* [serial on the Internet]. 2002 Jun [cited 2002 Aug 12]; 102: [about 3 p]. Available from: <http://www.nursingworld.org/AJN/2002/june/Wawatch.htm>

13.25 Monograph on the Internet: Foley KM, Gelband H, editors. Improving palliative care for cancer [monograph on the Internet]. Washington: National Academy Press; 2001 [cited 2002 Jul 9]. Available from: <http://www.nap.edu/books/0309074029/html/>.

13.26 Homepage/Web site: Cancer-Pain.org [homepage on the Internet]. New York: Association of Cancer Online Resources Inc; c2000–01 [updated 2002 May 16; cited 2002 Jul 9]. Available from: <http://www.cancer-pain.org/>.

13.27 Part of a homepage/Web site: American Medical Association [homepage on the Internet]. Chicago: The Association; c1995–2002 [updated 2001 Aug 23; cited 2002 Aug 12]. AMA Office of Group Practice Liaison; [about 2 screens]. Available from: <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/1736.html>

13.28 Database on the Internet:

Open database:

Who's Certified [database on the Internet]. Evanston (IL): The American Board of Medical Specialists. c2000 - [cited 2001 Mar 8]. Available from: <http://www.abms.org/newsearch>.

asp

Closed database:

Jablonski S. Online Multiple Congenital Anomaly/Mental Retardation (MCA/MR) Syndromes [database on the Internet]. Bethesda (MD): National Library of Medicine (US). c1999 [updated 2001 Nov 20; cited 2002 Aug 12]. Available from: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/jablonski/syndrome_title.html

13.29 Part of a database on the Internet: Mesh Browser [database on the Internet]. Bethesda (MD): National Library of Medicine (US); 2002 - [cited 2003 Jun 10]. Meta-analysis; unique ID: D015201; [about 3 p]. Available from: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/MBrowser.html> Files updated weekly.

PREPARATION OF MANUSCRIPTS

14 Writing

The manuscripts must be written in clear, grammatical English with no typographical errors. Manuscripts that do not meet the minimal requirements for English grammar and composition will be rejected immediately. Manuscripts with faint or illegible type or with substandard illustrations will be returned to the authors.

The past tense should be used for past occurrences (eg, Methods and Results). Leave 1 space after a comma, except in chemical names, for example, 1,2,3,4-tetramethyl.

Use *italics* when necessary, for example, *Macaca mulatta*, *Panax ginseng*, *Plasmodium falciparum*, *in vitro*, *in vivo*, *et al*, *etc*. Greek letters should be spelled out in full in the margin of the page.

In a simple series of 3 or more elements, a comma should precede the "and/or" connecting the last 2 elements. Example: A, B, and/or C (not A, B and/or C). The "nesting order" for parentheses, square brackets, and braces is {{{}}}

Symbols for chemical elements should be written in roman (upright) type (irrespective of the type used in the rest of the text) (ISO 31-0: 1992).

15 Abbreviations

Avoid unnecessary abbreviations and acronyms, especially in the title. Use uncommon abbreviations and acronyms sparingly, since extensive use renders the text hard to follow.

At the first appearance in the abstract and in the text the abbreviation or acronym should be preceded by its full spelling. For example, ranitidine (Ran), *Helicobacter pylori* (Hp), *Ginkgo biloba* extract (GbE).

Suffix may be used to indicate "what" and "where," printed as inferiors on the line. Multiple suffix, when necessary, should be separated by commas, such as p_{A,CO_2} (partial pressure of CO₂ in alveolar air).

Omit the period after abbreviations and acronyms, such as eg (not e.g.) and USA (not U.S.A.).

16 Style

Keep the manuscript as concise as possible. Use specific, concrete words instead of vague, general ones wherever possible. For example, pig (not porcine), to (not in order to), by (not by

means of).

Use simple sentences. Delete unnecessary wording, for example, "it has been reported in the past literature that," "as already stated," and "in a real sense."

Authors should consult a recent issue of *Acta Pharmacologica Sinica* to get familiar with the general layout and various elements in an article.

PUBLICATION PROCESS

17 Manuscript submission

Submitted manuscripts should be accompanied by a covering letter giving details of: 1) the title of the manuscript and its main point; 2) a statement that the manuscript has not been published in part or whole (except in the form of abstract) or is under consideration for publication elsewhere by any language; 3) a statement that all authors have agreed to be so listed and have seen and approved the manuscript, its consent and its submission to the APS; 4) a full current postal address, telephone and fax numbers, and current e-mail address. We usually communicate with authors by e-mail. Authors must specify if they wish to exclude a method of communication.

Authors may suggest 2-3 reviewers. Please provide the name, postal address, and e-mail address, telephone and fax numbers, and fields of interest. Authors may also suggest that specific individuals not be involved as reviewers, but *Acta Pharmacologica Sinica* reserves the right of final selection.

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23 Costs

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