

Telomerase

Telomerase is a [ribonucleoprotein](#) that adds a species-dependent [telomere](#) repeat sequence to the 3' end of [telomeres](#).

Telomerase is a [reverse transcriptase](#) enzyme that carries its own [RNA](#) molecule (e.g., with the sequence 3'-CCCAAUCCC-5' in [Trypanosoma brucei](#)) which is used as a template when it elongates telomeres. (Beyond unicellular organisms) Telomerase is active in normal stem cells and most cancer cells but is normally absent from, or at very low levels in, most somatic cells.

Telomerase activation

[Telomerase activation](#)

Telomerase activity

[Telomerase activity](#)

Telomere maintenance mechanism

[Telomere maintenance mechanism](#)

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