

PATIENT: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

TEST NUMBER: G-NL-XXXXX GENDER: XXXXXX AGE: XX
 COLLECTED:
 00-XXX-2023

 RECEIVED:
 00-XXX-2023

 TESTED:
 00-XXX-2023

TEST REF: GNL-NL-XXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

TEST NAME: TruDiagnostic Sample Telomere Report

TELOMERE LENGTH REPORT

And How Their Length Affects You



Nordic Laboratories Aps Nygade 6, 3.sal • 1164 Copenhagen K • Denmark Tlf. +45 33 75 10 00

11 Old Factory Buildings • Stonegate • E. Sussex TN5 7DU • UK Tel: +44 (0)1580 201 687 Page: 1 of 3 www.nordic-labs.com info@nordic-labs.com

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Introduction to Telomeres

Telomeres are repeating sequences of nucleotide sequences (TTAGGG) that tag the ends of all chromosomes. They are designed to prevent unpredictable changes in the DNA strand, keeping the genome stable [3].

Their primary function is to prevent chromosomal "fraying" when a cell replicates, much like the plastic tips on the end of shoelaces [5]. As a cell ages, its telomeres become shorter.

This shortening is thought to be one of several factors that causes cells to age. In actively dividing cells, such as those in the bone marrow, the stem cells of the embryo, and germ cells in the adult, telomere length (TL) is kept constant by the enzyme telomerase.

As the organism grows, this enzyme becomes less active over time. This leads to a slow decrease in telomere length, until a point is reached at which the cell is no longer capable of replication ('replicative senescence'). A cell can no longer divide when telomeres are too short—once they reach a critical point, the cell becomes inactive (or 'senescent'), slowly accumulating damage that it can't repair, or it dies [6].



Why are Telomeres Important?

Telomere length is affected by both genetic and epigenetic contributions. A new study found that DNA methylation is closely linked to TL. The study by researchers at the University of California Los Angeles shows a very significant linkage between two different markers that indicate aging [2].

Telomeres are an essential part of human cells that affect how our cells age [1]. Telomere length has emerged as an important determinant of replicative senescence and cell fate - an important indicator of the aging process and a wide range of disease states, including cancers, cardiovascular disease, and age-related disorders.

Shorter telomeres are not only associated with age but with disease too. In fact, shorter telomere length and low telomerase activity are associated with several chronic preventable diseases. These include hypertension, cardiovascular disease, insulin resistance, type 2 diabetes, depression, osteoporosis, and obesity.

Shorter telomeres have also been implicated in genomic instability and oncogenesis. Older people with shorter telomeres have three and eight times increased risk to die from heart and infectious diseases, respectively [4].

The rate of telomere shortening and telomere length is therefore critical to an individual's health and pace of aging.

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