

Abstract

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Telomere and adaptive immunity.

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BACKGROUND: The adaptive immune response relies on the ability of lymphocytes to undergo periodic massive expansion. It is an enigma how lymphocytes are able to undergo this seemingly unlimited number of cell divisions. Telomeres and telomerase play a critical role in regulation of the replicative lifespan of cells, providing a potential mechanism which lymphocytes may employ.

SUMMARY: Here I will review the recent progress of the role of telomeres and telomerase in lymphocyte differentiation, function, and aging.

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