

## **1828 - Good News (and Bad) at the Ends of our Chromosomes The Role of Telomeres in Cancer**

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### **Abstract:**

When our cells divide, the ends of our chromosomes – the telomeres – get shorter. In the end, this causes cell duplication to stop: one of the mechanisms of ageing. So the popular belief is that telomere shortening is a bad thing, but actually it is not. I will explain how the process of telomere shortening may even prevent cancer. However, it also can promote cancer growth once that has started. What can we learn about the role of our telomeres in disease and in health?