

## TELOMERE LENGTH AND HEALTH

Shortening of telomeres has been associated with cellular aging, and longer telomeres were initially reported to predict lifespan (1). Studies in animals show that the rate of shortening is probably more important.

Taking advantage of telomere length data in the UK Biobank, Moix et al. (2) delineate a comprehensive view of “causes, consequences, and mediating effects of telomere length variation on human health”.

Interestingly, the paper takes into consideration also lifestyle, and socio-economic factors.

The equally complex relationship between telomere length and tumors was not included in this paper. In another recently published paper, DeBoy et al. (3) report that “Telomere-lengthening germline variants predispose to a syndromic papillary thyroid cancer subtype”.

1. <https://www.pnas.org/doi/full/10.1073/pnas.1113306109>
2. <https://genomebiology.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13059-024-03269-9>
3. [https://www.cell.com/ajhg/abstract/S0002-9297\(24\)00121-6](https://www.cell.com/ajhg/abstract/S0002-9297(24)00121-6)