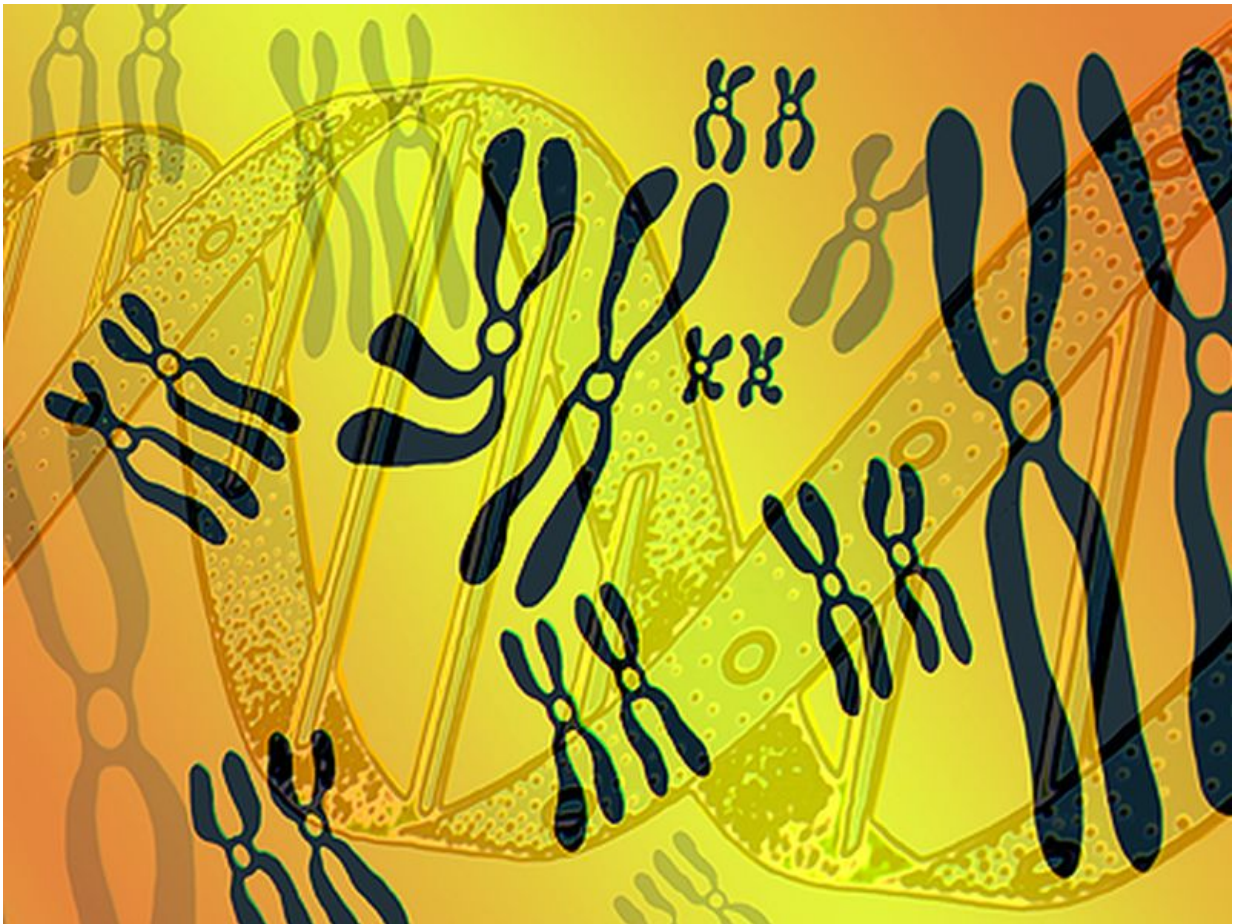


Telomere length prognostic in hepatocellular carcinoma

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(HealthDay)—Telomere attrition occurs in tumor cells from patients

with hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), and shortened telomeres are independent prognosticators for HCC patients, according to a study published online Aug. 21 in the *Journal of Pathology*.

Li-Jie Ma, from Fudan University in Shanghai, and colleagues used telomere-specific fluorescence in situ hybridization and quantitative polymerase chain reaction to assess [telomere length](#) in HCC cell lines, [tumor tissues](#), and nontumor cells within the tumor.

The researchers found that, compared with their normal counterparts, significant telomere attrition was found in tumor cells and cancer-associated fibroblasts (CAFs), but not in intratumor leukocytes or bile duct epithelial cells. On tissue microarrays of 257 surgically treated HCC patients, reduced intensity of telomere signals in tumor cells or CAFs were associated with larger tumor size and presence of vascular invasion (P

"Telomere variation in tumor cells and non-[tumor cells](#) within the [tumor microenvironment](#) of HCC was a valuable prognostic biomarker for this fatal malignancy," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract](#)
[Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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