

Telomere Dysfunction Drives Chromosomal Instability in Aggressive Carcinomas

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ABSTRACT

Telomere attrition precipitates a state of chromosomal instability that fuels tumour heterogeneity. We characterised telomere dynamics across 312 aggressive carcinomas using long-read sequencing. Tumours with critically short telomeres showed a fivefold excess of fusion-bridge-breakage events, and telomerase reactivation timing separated two distinct evolutionary trajectories.

KEYWORDS

telomeres, chromosomal instability, long-read sequencing

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