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DNA Replication Fork

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *DNA Replication Fork*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C48196.

DNA replication is a process that allows two new double helices of DNA to be created from one double helix. During replication, Y-shaped regions of replicating DNA molecules are mobilized, where the enzymes replicating a DNA molecule bind to an untwisted, single DNA strand. This Y-shaped region is referred to as a replication fork. Bacteria and viruses only process one replication fork at a time, while eukaryotic DNA has many replication forks moving along DNA strands at the same time.