Introduction

Reactome is open-source, open access, manually curated and peer-reviewed pathway database. Pathway annotations are authored by expert biologists, in collaboration with Reactome editorial staff and cross-referenced to many bioinformatics databases. A system of evidence tracking ensures that all assertions are backed up by the primary literature. Reactome is used by clinicians, geneticists, genomics researchers, and molecular biologists to interpret the results of high-throughput experimental studies, by bioinformaticians seeking to develop novel algorithms for mining knowledge from genomic studies, and by systems biologists building predictive models of normal and disease variant pathways.

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Literature references


Reactome database release: 83

This document contains 1 pathway and 3 reactions (see Table of Contents)
mRNA 3'-end processing

Stable identifier: R-HSA-72187

Compartments: nucleoplasm

The 3' ends of eukaryotic mRNAs are generated by posttranscriptional processing of an extended primary transcript. For almost all RNAs, 3'-end processing consists of two steps: (i) the mRNA is first cleaved at a particular phosphodiester bond downstream of the coding sequence, (ii) the upstream fragment then receives a poly(A) tail of approximately 250 adenylate residues, whereas the downstream fragment is degraded. The two partial reactions are coupled so that reaction intermediates are usually undetectable. While 3' processing can be studied as an isolated event \textit{in vitro}, it appears to be connected to transcription, splicing, and transcription termination \textit{in vivo}.

The only known exception to the rule of cleavage followed by polyadenylation are the major histone mRNAs, which are cleaved but not polyadenylated.

Literature references


Editions

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<td>Joshi-Tope, G.</td>
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TREX complex binds spliced, capped mRNA: CBC:EJC cotranscriptionally

**Location:** mRNA 3'-end processing

**Stable identifier:** R-HSA-8849157

**Type:** binding

**Compartments:** nucleoplasm

The THO subcomplex of the TREX complex initially interacts with the serine-2,5 phosphorylated C-terminal domain of RNA polymerase II (Strasser et al. 2002, Inferred from yeast in Meinel et al. 2013) then with CBP80 of the cap binding complex (Cheng et al. 2006, Dufu et al. 2010, Chi et al. 2013). A TREX complex binds spliced mRNA near the cap during transcription (Cheng et al. 2006). Recruitment is dependent on splicing of the mRNA (Masuda et al. 2005). THO/TREX is required for efficient mRNP biogenesis and export (reviewed in Luna et al. 2012). THO/TREX is required for efficient mRNP biogenesis and export (reviewed in Luna et al. 2012). In yeast, components of the THO/TREX complex also affect transcription and 3' processing of mRNA, (Rondon et al. 2003, Rougemaille et al. 2008, Johnson et al. 2011, reviewed in Katahira 2015), however the human TREX complex does not appear to affect transcription (Masuda et al. 2005). The AREX complex, which contains DDX39A (UHR49) rather than DDX39B (UAP56) appears to perform the same function as TREX in mRNA export, but acts on a different subset of mRNAs (Yamazaki et al. 2010).

Followed by: Cleavage of mRNA at the 3'-end

**Literature references**


https://reactome.org
## Editions

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Endonucleolytic cleavage separates the pre-mRNA into an upstream fragment destined to become the mature mRNA, and a downstream fragment that is rapidly degraded. Cleavage depends on two signals in the RNA, a highly conserved hexanucleotide, AAUAAA, 10 to 30 nucleotides upstream of the cleavage site, and a poorly conserved GU- or U-rich downstream element. Additional sequences, often upstream of AAUAAA, can enhance the efficiency of the reaction. Cleavage occurs most often after a CA dinucleotide. A single gene can have more than one 3' processing site.

Cleavage is preceded by the assembly of a large processing complex, the composition of which is poorly defined. ATP, but not its hydrolysis, is required for assembly. Cleavage at the 3'-end of mRNAs depends on a number of protein factors. CPSF, a heterotetramer, binds specifically to the AAUAAA sequence. The heterotrimer CstF binds the downstream element. CF I, which appears to be composed of two subunits, one of several related larger polypeptides and a common smaller one, also binds RNA, but with unknown specificity. RNA recognition by these proteins is cooperative. Cleavage also requires CF II, composed of at least two subunits, and poly(A) polymerase, the enzyme synthesizing the poly(A) tail in the second step of the reaction. The polypeptide catalyzing the hydrolysis of the phosphodiester bond remains to be identified.

Cleavage produces a 3'-OH on the upstream fragment and a 5'-phosphate on the downstream fragment. At some unknown point after cleavage, the downstream RNA fragment, CstF, CF I and CF II are thought to be released, whereas CPSF and poly(A) polymerase remain to carry out polyadenylation.

**Preceded by:** TREX complex binds spliced, capped mRNA:CBC:EJC cotranscriptionally

**Followed by:** mRNA polyadenylation
Literature references


Editions

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mRNA polyadenylation

Location: mRNA 3'-end processing

Stable identifier: R-HSA-72185

Type: transition

Compartments: nucleoplasm

The upstream fragment generated by 3' cleavage of the pre-mRNA receives a poly(A) tail of approximately 250 AMP residues in a reaction depending on the AAUAAA sequence 10 to 30 nucleotides upstream of the 3' end. Polyadenylation is carried out by three proteins: Poly(A) polymerase carries the catalytic activity. The enzyme has no specificity for any particular RNA sequence, and it also has a very low affinity for the RNA.

Under physiological conditions, the activity of poly(A) polymerase thus depends on two auxiliary factors, both of which bind to specific RNA sequences and recruit the enzyme by a direct contact. One of these proteins is the heterotetrameric CPSF, which binds the AAUAAA sequence and is also essential for 3' cleavage. The second is the nuclear poly(A) binding protein (PABPN1), which binds the growing poly(A) tails once this has reached a length of about ten nucleotides. Stimulation of poly(A) polymerase by both proteins is synergistic and results in processive elongation of the RNA, i.e. the polymerase adds AMP residues without dissociating from the RNA. The processive reaction is terminated when the tail has reached a length of about 250 nucleotides.

Preceded by: Cleavage of mRNA at the 3'-end

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</tbody>
</table>
Table of Contents

Introduction

mRNA 3'-end processing

- TREX complex binds spliced, capped mRNA:CBC:EJC cotranscriptionally

- Cleavage of mRNA at the 3'-end

- mRNA polyadenylation

Table of Contents