

**complementary DNA (cDNA)**

A single-stranded *DNA* molecule with a *nucleotide* sequence that is complementary to an *RNA* molecule; cDNA is formed by the action of the *enzyme* reverse transcriptase on an RNA *template*. After conversion to the double-stranded form, cDNA is used for molecular cloning or for *hybridization* studies.

1992, 64, 150