

Function: Providing support with both elasticity and firmness Forming the earliest skeleton in the fetus  
Cartilage is essential for the development and growth of long bones before and after birth o Embryology  
of cartilage i. Cartilage arises from stem cells, and some mesenchyme cells aggregate to form a  
blastema ii. Blastema cells secrete cartilage matrix and are called chondroblastChondrocyte Oval to  
round mature cartilage It is chondroblast surrounded by matrix space(lacuna) Young chondrocyte can  
divided but the adult chondrocyte cannot..