

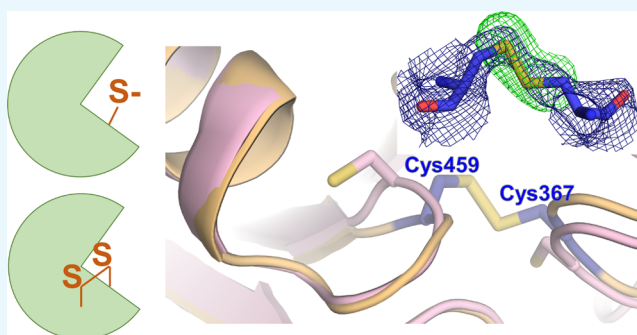
Redox Regulation of a Gain-of-Function Mutation (N308D) in SHP2 Noonan Syndrome

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ABSTRACT: SHP2 (Src homology 2 domain-containing protein tyrosine phosphatase 2; PTPN11) is a ubiquitous multidomain, nonreceptor protein tyrosine phosphatase (PTP) that plays an important role in diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and Noonan syndrome (NS). NS is one of the most common genetic disorders associated with congenital heart disease, and approximately half of the patients with Noonan syndrome have gain-of-function mutations in SHP2. One of the most common NS mutations is N308D. The activity of SHP2, like that of most PTPs, is reversibly inactivated by reactive oxygen species (ROS). However, the molecular basis of this inactivation and the consequences of NS-related mutations in PTPN11 on ROS-mediated inhibition are poorly understood. Here, we investigated the mechanistic and structural details of the reversible oxidation of the NS variant SHP2_{N308D}. We show that SHP2_{N308D} is more sensitive to oxidation when compared with wild-type SHP2. We also show that although the SHP2_{N308D} catalytic domain can be reactivated by dithiothreitol as effectively as the wild-type, full-length SHP2_{N308D} is only poorly reactivated by comparison. To understand the mechanism of oxidation at a molecular level, we determined the crystal structure of oxidized SHP2_{N308D}. The structure shows that the catalytic Cys459 residue forms a disulfide bond with Cys367, which confirms that Cys367 functions as the “backdoor” cysteine in SHP2. Together, our data suggest that the reversible oxidation of SHP2 contributes negligibly, if at all, to the symptoms associated with NS.



INTRODUCTION

SHP2 (Src homology 2 domain-containing protein tyrosine phosphatase 2; PTPN11) is a ubiquitous multidomain, nonreceptor protein tyrosine phosphatase (PTP)¹ that contains two regulatory SH2 domains [N-SH2 (residues 1–103) and C-SH2 (residues 112–216)] and a PTP domain (residues 221–524). The SHP2 PTP domain includes the structural features required for catalysis, including the PTP loop with the requisite catalytic cysteine residue, the WPD loop that is required for substrate hydrolysis, the Q-loop, the substrate-binding loop, and the E-loop. The activity of SHP2 is regulated by an intramolecular allosteric interaction between the SH2 and PTP domains.^{2,3} In the absence of phosphotyrosine (pTyr) docking sites created by receptor activation, SHP2 is not active. This is because the SH2 domains associate directly with the PTP domain and occlude the active site.⁴ However, receptor activation results in the generation of biphosphorylated tyrosine sequences that bind the SHP2 SH2 domains, which results in the dissociation of the SH2 domains from the PTP domain. This renders the SHP2 catalytic site accessible, resulting in substrate binding and dephosphorylation.

SHP2 has multiple biological functions, including the regulation of signaling pathways, especially the RAS/ERK signaling pathway that is downstream of most growth factors, cytokines, and integrins.^{5–7} Mutations in PTPN11 are

correlated with approximately 50% of Noonan syndrome (NS) cases.⁸ NS is a congenital autosomal dominant disorder, affecting 1:1000 to 1:2500 live births, characterized by short stature, short neck, facial dysmorphism, pulmonary valve stenosis, congenital heart defects, variable coagulation defects, and lymphatic dysplasias.⁹ The most common NS variant is N308D, which leads to an increase in SHP2 activity (hyperactive SHP2),¹⁰ and is hypothesized to be mediated by a destabilization of the autoinhibited “closed” state. It has also been shown that reactive oxygen species (ROS), which are important mediators of cell growth, differentiation, and signaling, regulate SHP2 activity by reversible inactivation^{11–13}

and that this is achieved through the formation of a disulfide bond between the catalytic cysteine (Cys459) and one of two potential “backdoor” cysteines (Cys333 or Cys367). Further, the same group identified the formation of a backdoor–backdoor disulfide following H₂O₂-mediated oxidation in the presence of Cys459, leading to a model in which the stably oxidized form of SHP2 consists of a reduced catalytic cysteine and a stable backdoor–backdoor disulfide. It is not known if or

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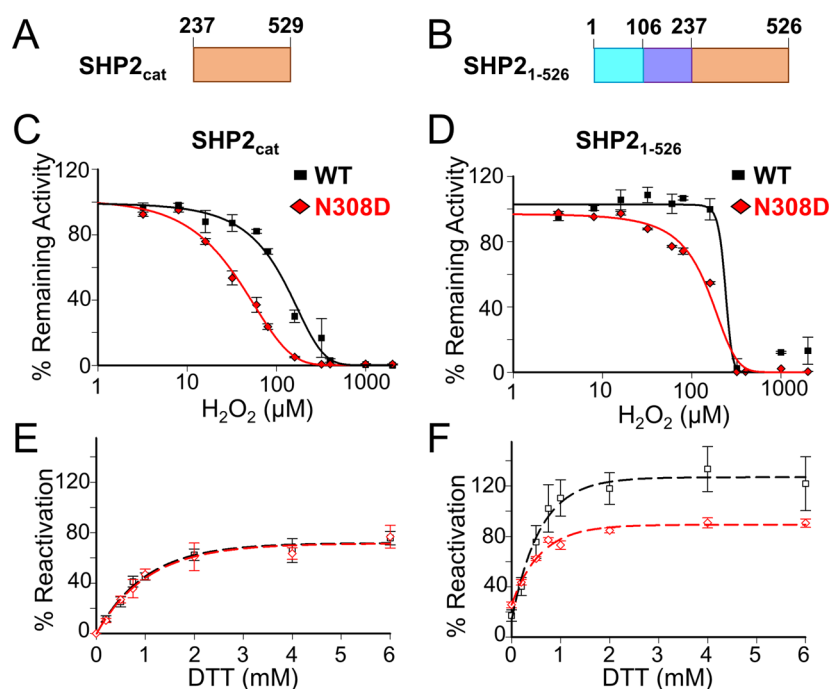


Figure 1. Inhibition and reactivation of the steady-state activity of SHP2 variants. (A) Domain cartoon of the SHP2_{cat} construct. (B) Domain cartoon of the SHP2₁₋₅₂₆ construct (SH2_N, cyan; SH2_C, blue; CAT, orange). (C, D) The steady-state activity of SHP2 variants (C, SHP2₂₃₇₋₅₂₉; D, SHP2₁₋₅₂₆; WT, black squares, N308D variant, red diamonds) were measured after incubating the samples with the indicated concentrations of H₂O₂ for 15 min. The % remaining activity was calculated by normalizing the measured activity to the sample incubated without H₂O₂. (E, F) The ability of oxidized SHP2 variants (E, SHP2₂₃₇₋₅₂₉; F, SHP2₁₋₅₂₆) to be subsequently reactivated was determined by measuring the activities of reduced (no H₂O₂) and oxidized (15 min incubation with 500 μM H₂O₂ prior to activity measurements) SHP2 samples in the presence of the indicated concentrations of DTT. The % reactivation was calculated by normalizing the activities of the oxidized samples to the corresponding reduced samples. ±SE, *n* = 3–4. Two-way ANOVA test, with ****p* < 0.0001 (C, D) or **p* < 0.05 (F) between WT and mutant.

Table 1. Catalytic Activities of SHP2_{cat} and SHP2₁₋₅₂₆ Variants (WT and N308D) Using *p*NPP as a Substrate

PTP variant	k_{cat} (s ⁻¹)	catalytic efficiency (k_{cat}/K_m ; s ⁻¹ mM ⁻¹)	fold change ^a	IC ₅₀ H ₂ O ₂ (μM)
SHP2 _{cat}	3.7 ± 0.1	1.3 ± 0.1	72	148 ± 14
SHP2 _{cat,N308D}	3.0 ± 0.1	0.6 ± 0.04	33	38 ± 4 ^b
SHP2 ₁₋₅₂₆	0.04 ± 0.01	0.018 ± 0.01	1	193 ± 7
SHP2 _{1-526,N308D}	0.3 ± 0.02	0.078 ± 0.003	4	108 ± 3 ^b

^aRelative to Shp2₁₋₅₂₆ catalytic efficiency. ^bUnpaired *t*-test, *p* < 0.003, relative to WT.

how this redox regulation is altered in PTPN11 variants correlated with NS.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We used biochemistry and structural biology to determine how the NS variant SHP2_{N308D} is differentially regulated by ROS. To understand how the presence of the SH2 domains affects oxidation and reactivation susceptibility, we examined both the catalytic domain in isolation (SHP2_{cat}; aa 237–529; Figure 1A) and within the context of both SH2 domains (SHP2₁₋₅₂₆; Figure 1B). To determine the relative activities of the wild-type (WT) SHP2 and the SHP2_{N308D} variants, we first measured their catalytic activities using *para*-nitrophenylphosphate (*p*NPP) as a substrate. Consistent with previous data, the presence of the SH2 domains, which block the SHP2 active site in the absence of phosphorylated peptides, dramatically reduces the activity of SHP2, as SHP2₁₋₅₂₆ is ~70-fold less active than the catalytic domain alone (Table 1). However, although the catalytic efficiency of the NS variant, SHP2_{cat,N308D}, is about 40% lower than that of WT SHP2_{cat}, this difference is reversed for the SH2-containing constructs, i.e., the SHP2_{1-526,N308D} variant is about 4-fold more active than WT (SHP2₁₋₅₂₆). This

increase in catalytic activity of the N308D mutant is consistent with what has been observed *in vivo*,^{14,15} namely, that the SHP2 NS variant N308D results in enhanced enzymatic activity, leading to the increased activation in the RAS/ERK pathway that is associated with the pathogenesis of NS.¹⁴

The prevailing hypothesis is that the N308D mutation destabilizes the interaction between the SH2 and catalytic domains (N308 is located at the interface of these two domains), leading to enhanced activity due to increased access to the SHP2 active site. We therefore asked if this putative increased access to the active site also confers differential susceptibility of SHP2_{N308D} to reversible oxidation. To test this, we determined the oxidation profile of both WT SHP2 and the NS variant SHP2 N308D upon exposure to H₂O₂. As can be seen in Figure 1C,D, both the N308D variants (SHP2_{cat,N308D} and SHP2_{1-526,N308D}) are more sensitive to oxidation than their WT counterparts. Namely, H₂O₂ inhibits SHP2_{cat,N308D} with an IC₅₀ of 38 μM, whereas the same H₂O₂ concentration has essentially no effect on its WT counterpart (Figure 1C, Table 1). A similar difference in H₂O₂ sensitivity is observed for the SH2-containing constructs, with H₂O₂ inhibiting the activity of SHP2_{1-526,N308D} with an IC₅₀ of 108 μM, whereas the same

H₂O₂ concentration has no effect on its WT counterpart (Figure 1D, Table 1). Thus, both SHP2_{1–526,N308D} and SHP2_{cat,N308D} are more sensitive to oxidation than their WT SHP2 counterparts, with the catalytic domain construct (SHP2_{cat,N308D}) being the most sensitive.

We then tested the ability of the N308D variants to be reactivated with DTT after a 15 min oxidation with 500 μM H₂O₂. We observed a striking difference in the ability of the NS variants to be reactivated upon the addition of reductant; namely, although the activity of SHP2_{cat,N308D} recovers its activity as effectively as its WT counterpart (SHP2_{cat}; Figure 1E), the SH2-containing variant does not and instead achieves only a 66% recovery in activity (Figure 1F). Thus, although both SHP2_{1–526,N308D} and SHP2_{cat,N308D} are more sensitive to oxidation by H₂O₂ compared to their WT counterparts, only the catalytic domain is able to achieve WT-levels of reactivation; SHP2_{1–526,N308D} is not. This suggests that the N308D variant of SHP2 is not only more sensitive to oxidation by ROS, but it is also less effectively reactivated, at least by DTT. Thus, under conditions which lead to high concentrations of ROS, SHP2_{N308D} would be expected to be less active and its activity recovered less effectively than its WT counterpart.

To gain further insights into the molecular basis of the reversible oxidation, we determined the crystal structure of oxidized SHP2_{1–526,N308D} to 2.5 Å. As SHP2_{1–526,N308D} is highly susceptible to oxidation, oxidized SHP2_{1–526,N308D} was formed by omitting reducing agents in the protein buffer prior to crystal formation. The electron density maps were well defined for the entirety of the protein molecule with the exception of five short loops. Like all previous structures of SHP2, oxidized SHP2_{1–526,N308D} is in the closed state, with the SH2 domains directly occluding the catalytic site (Figure 2A,B). The oxidized SHP2_{1–526,N308D} structure also contains three ordered phosphate molecules, two of which bind the phosphotyrosine

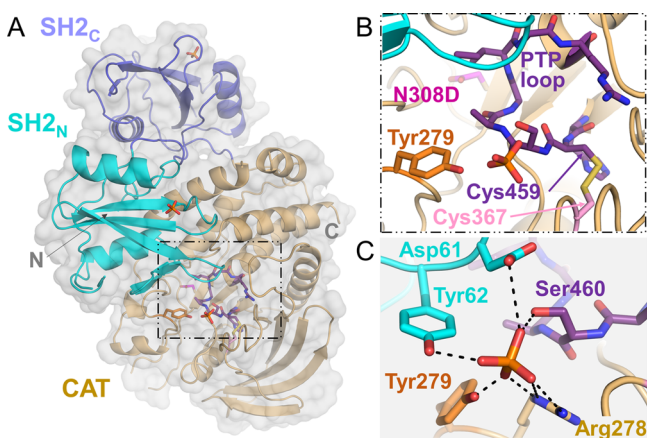


Figure 2. Oxidized SHP2_{1–526,N308D} results in the formation of a disulfide bond between the catalytic cysteine, Cys459, and the backdoor cysteine, Cys367. (A) Structure of oxidized SHP2_{1–526} (SH2_N, cyan; SH2_C, blue; CAT, orange). The N- and C-termini are labeled. Three bound phosphate ions are shown as sticks and key residues discussed in the manuscript are shown as sticks and boxed. (B) Expanded view of the area boxed in (A). PTP loop (purple), N308D (magenta), Tyr279 (orange), Cys367 (pink), and catalytic cysteine Cys459 (purple) are shown as sticks. (C) View similar to (B), but highlighting the residues that coordinate the bound phosphate ion (shown as sticks and labeled; residues in cyan belong to the SH2_N domain, whereas the rest are from the catalytic domain).

recognition pockets in the SH2 domains. Unexpectedly, the third phosphate binds a pocket near the PTP active site, at a position that is very nearly continuous with the hydroxyl of Tyr279 (this residue defines the depth of the PTP active site; Figure 2C). Previous studies have shown that Tyr279 is phosphorylated in an Abl-kinase-dependent manner and functions to downregulate SHP2-dependent ERK signaling.¹⁶ Our structure shows that Tyr279 phosphorylation may function to stabilize the closed state, which would lead to a decrease in SHP2 activity and SHP2-dependent ERK signaling, as the bound phosphate ion is coordinated by residues from both the N-terminal SH2 domain (Asp61, Tyr62) and the catalytic PTP domain (Tyr279, Arg278, and Ser460) (Figure 2C).

The structure of oxidized SHP2_{1–526,N308D} closely resembles that obtained under reducing conditions (PDB ID 4NWF; root-mean-square deviation of 0.58 Å over 471 residues; Figure 3A).¹⁷ However, the structures are not identical. In oxidized

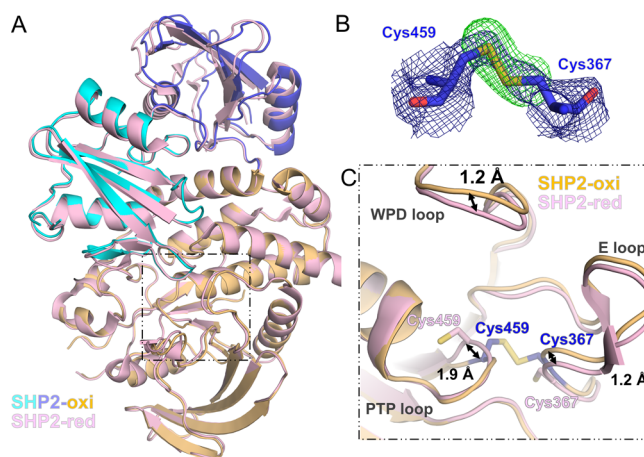


Figure 3. Oxidation of SHP2 results in only small, local conformational changes compared with the reduced state. (A) Overlay of oxidized SHP2 N308D (individual domains colored as in Figure 2) and reduced SHP2 N308D (pink; PDB ID 4NWF²⁰). (B) FOM-weighted $2mF_o - DF_c$ electron density map (blue mesh; contoured at 1.0σ to 2.50 \AA) and $mF_o - DF_c$ electron density map (green mesh; contoured at 3.0σ to 2.50 \AA) of residues Cys459 and Cys367 refined at an occupancy of 1.0, with γ S atoms omitted. (C) Close-up of the residues that mediate SHP2 reversible oxidation: Cys459 and Cys367. Arrows highlight the small conformational changes observed in the PTP loop, the E-loop, and the WPD loop (labeled).

SHP2_{N308D}, the catalytic Cys459 side chain rotates out of the PTP pocket by nearly 90° to form an intramolecular disulfide bond with Cys367 (Figure 3B). Thus, this structure confirms that the mechanism by which SHP2 achieves reversible oxidation is via the formation of a disulfide bond between its catalytic cysteine and a backdoor cysteine (and not by forming a cyclic sulphenamide with the immediate C-terminal Ser residue, Ser460, which has been observed in other PTPs, such as PTP1B^{18,19}). Further, the structure reveals that the identity of the backdoor cysteine in SHP2 is Cys367. Although Chen et al. observed the existence of a reduced catalytic cysteine (Cys459) and the formation of a backdoor–backdoor disulfide bond following treatment with H₂O₂, we see no evidence of such a backdoor–backdoor (Cys333–Cys367) disulfide. Rather, oxidized SHP2_{1–526,N308D} is defined by a disulfide bond formed between the catalytic Cys459 and the backdoor Cys367 cysteines.

Disulfide bond formation results in distinct structural changes between the oxidized and reduced states (Figure 3C). First, in spite of disulfide bond formation, the structure of the PTP loop (⁴⁵⁸HCSAGIR⁴⁶⁵) is essentially unchanged in the oxidized versus reduced structure. The only significant conformational difference in this loop is the position of the C α atom of Cys459 in the oxidized structure. Specifically, the C α atom shifts ~ 1.9 Å away from its corresponding position in the reduced structure to accommodate disulfide bond formation. Second, and in contrast to the PTP loop, whose changes are highly localized, both the E-loop (³⁵⁷TKEVERGKSKC³⁷⁰VKY³⁷⁰, which includes the backdoor cysteine, Cys367) and to some extent the WPD loop (⁴²²TWPDHGVP⁴²⁹) shift away from the catalytic site as rigid bodies to accommodate disulfide bond formation. The maximum shift of both loops is ~ 1.2 Å. Thus, disulfide bond formation is readily achieved in SHP2 with only minor changes in the overall conformation of the structure. Consistent with this, the position of the N308D mutation is identical between the oxidized and reduced structures.

Taken together, our data shows that both SHP2_{cat,N308D} and SHP2_{1-526,N308D} are more susceptible to oxidation than WT SHP2 and furthermore that oxidized SHP2_{1-526,N308D} is comparatively resistant to reactivation by DTT. This suggests that under oxidizing conditions, the NS mutant is less active than WT and that its reactivation is less effective. This would result in an overall reduction in SHP2 activity for the N308D mutant compared to that in WT. Notably, this is the opposite of what is observed for NS mutants. Namely, NS variants exhibit increased SHP2 activities.^{17,20} Together, these data suggest that the reversible oxidation of SHP2 contributes negligibly, if at all, to the symptoms associated with NS. Our data also provide the first structural evidence for disulfide-mediated protection of SHP2 against irreversible oxidation. In our structure, Cys459 forms a disulfide bond with Cys367; no evidence is observed for a Cys333–Cys367 bond. Coupled with the observation that the γ S atoms of C459 and C333 are separated by >8 Å, our data shows that Cys367 plays a dominant role over Cys333 in protecting Cys459 from irreversible oxidation.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Expression and Purification. DNA coding the full length and the catalytic domain of SHP2 residues [1–526 and 237–526 (SHP2_{cat}), respectively] were subcloned into RP1B and pNIC28, respectively, as previously described.²¹ Site-directed mutagenesis was used to create the N308D variant (Agilent Genomics). For protein expression, plasmid DNAs were transformed into *Escherichia coli* BL21 (DE3) RIL cells (Agilent). Cells were grown in Luria broth in the presence of selective antibiotics at 37 °C to an OD₆₀₀ of ~ 0.8 , and the expression was induced by the addition of 1 mM isopropylthio- β -D-galactoside. Induction proceeded for ~ 20 h at 18 °C prior to harvesting by centrifugation at 7647g (15 min, 4 °C). Cell pellets were stored at -80 °C until purification.

Cell pellets were resuspended in lysis buffer (50 mM Tris–HCl pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl, 5 mM imidazole, 0.1% Triton X-100) and lysed using high-pressure homogenization (Avestin C3 EmulsiFlex). The lysate was cleared by centrifugation (40905g, 45 min, 4 °C). The supernatant was filtered and loaded onto a Ni-NTA column equilibrated in buffer A (50 mM Tris–HCl pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl, 5 mM imidazole). Protein was eluted using buffer B (50 mM Tris–HCl pH 8.0, 500 mM

NaCl, 300 mM imidazole). The elution was incubated with tobacco etch virus (TEV) protease overnight at 4 °C in dialysis buffer (20 mM Tris–HCl pH 8.0, 100 mM NaCl). The TEV protease, cleaved His₆-tag, and uncleaved protein were removed using a second IMAC step. Final purification was achieved using size exclusion chromatography [SEC; Superdex 75 26/60 (GE Healthcare)] equilibrated in analysis buffer (50 mM Hepes pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl). All experiments were performed in analysis buffer.

Determination of PTPase Catalytic Rates Using pNPP as a Substrate. The PTPase activity of SHP2_{cat}, SHP2_{cat,N308D} (0.25 μ M), and SHP2_{1-526,N308D} (5 μ M) was determined by first incubating protein with pNPP at different concentrations (0, 50, 100, 250, 500, 750, 1000, 2000, 3000, and 4000 μ M) for 30 min at 30 °C. Next, the reactions were stopped with 100 μ L of 1 M NaOH and the absorbance of pNPP 405 nm then measured using a microplate spectrophotometer (BioTek). The PTPase rates were calculated using the molar extinction coefficient of pNPP of 18 000 M⁻¹ cm⁻¹.

Inactivation of SHP2 Variants by H₂O₂. To measure the susceptibility of the SHP2 variants to oxidation, SHP2₁₋₅₂₆, SHP2_{1-526,N308D}, SHP2_{cat}, and SHP2_{cat,N308D} (20 μ M) were incubated with different concentrations of H₂O₂ (0, 3.2, 8, 16, 32, 60, 80, 160, 320, 400, 1000, and 2000 μ M) for 15 min at room temperature. Each reaction was incubated with analysis buffer for 10 min at room temperature. pNPP (2000 μ M; 15 μ L) was then added and the reactions incubated at 30 °C for an additional 15 min. The reactions were then stopped with 1 M NaOH and the absorbance of pNPP 405 nm measured using a microplate spectrophotometer (BioTek). The PTPase rates were calculated using the molar extinction coefficient of pNPP of 18 000 M⁻¹ cm⁻¹. The extent of remaining activity was normalized to the sample incubated without H₂O₂.

Reactivation Experiments. To analyze the ability of DTT to reverse the H₂O₂-mediated oxidation of SHP2 variants, 1.6 μ M SHP2₁₋₅₂₆/SHP2_{1-526,N308D} and 0.6 μ M SHP2_{cat}/SHP2_{cat,N308D} were incubated with or without 500 μ M H₂O₂ for 15 min at room temperature. Five microliters (80 nM SHP2_{FL} and 30 nM SHP2_{cat}) of these reactions were then incubated in 95 μ L of buffer containing 100 μ M DiFMUP in the absence or presence of 0, 0.2, 0.5, 0.75, 1, 2, 4, and 6 mM DTT for 30 min at room temperature. The fluorescence intensity was then measured in the Synergy Epoch using an excitation filter of 340/40 and emission filter of 460/40. The recovered activities were determined by normalizing to the samples with 10 mM DTT and without H₂O₂.

Statistical Analysis. Data were analyzed using SigmaPlot 12.5 or Graph Pad Prism 6. The statistics for steady-state data was performed using unpaired *t*-test (SigmaPlot 13.0), with significance of $p < 0.05$ or by a two-way ANOVA analysis using Prism Graph Pad 6, with significance of $p < 0.05$.

Crystallization, Data Collection, and Structure Determination. SHP2_{1-526,N308D} was crystallized in 0.2 M sodium phosphate pH 9.1, 20% (w/v) poly(ethylene glycol) (PEG) 3350 using the sitting drop vapor diffusion method at 4 °C. Crystals were cryoprotected in 0.18 M sodium phosphate pH 9.1, 18% (w/v) PEG 3350, 20% (v/v) glycerol (direct soak, 1 min) prior to diffraction screening and data collection. Crystallographic data was collected at Brookhaven National Laboratory National Synchrotron Light Source (BNL-NSLS) Beamline X25 at 100 K using an ADSC QUANTUM 315 CCD detector (Table 2). Crystallographic data were indexed, scaled, and merged using HKL2000 0.98.692i.²² The structure of

Table 2. Data Collection and Refinement Statistics

SHP2 _{1–526,N308D} ^{a,b}	
protein	
organism	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
PDB ID	6ATD
data collection	
space group	P2 ₁
cell dimensions	
<i>a</i> , <i>b</i> , <i>c</i> (Å)	46.3, 216.1, 55.7
α , β , γ (deg)	90.0, 97.3, 90.0
resolution (Å)	50.0–2.50 (2.54–2.50)
<i>R</i> _{merge}	10.3 (57.5)
<i>I</i> / σ <i>I</i>	18.5 (2.4)
completeness (%)	98.3 (97.8)
redundancy	3.7 (3.5)
refinement	
resolution (Å)	38.7–2.50 (2.57–2.50)
no. reflections	36 774
<i>R</i> _{work} / <i>R</i> _{free}	0.195 (0.245)/0.237 (0.285)
no. atoms	
protein	7792
ligand/ion	20
water	197
<i>B</i> -factors	
protein	41.68
ligand	57.8
water	37.7
rms deviations	
bond lengths (Å)	0.004
bond angles (deg)	0.653
Ramachandran	
outliers (%)	0.5
allowed (%)	2.9
favored (%)	96.6
clashscore	3.5

^aData was collected from a single crystal. ^bValues in parentheses are for the highest-resolution shell.

SHP2_{1–526,N308D} was solved by molecular replacement using the program Phaser 1.3.2²³ and the structure of SHP2_{1–527} T2K/F41L/F513S (PDB ID: 2SHP) as a search model, after omitting solvent molecules. The resulting rotation- and translation-function *Z*-scores were 24.3 and 19.7 (molecule A) and 31.2 and 61.2 (molecule B), respectively. The model was completed by cycles of manual building using the program Coot 6.0.2²⁴ coupled with structure refinement using RefMac 5.2.0019,²⁵ with a final round of refinement using PHENIX.²⁶ The structure of SHP2_{1–526,N308D} was determined to 2.50 Å resolution and refined to *R*_{cryst} = 19.5% and *R*_{free} = 23.7% and contains 2 molecules of Shp2, 197 water molecules, and 4 phosphate molecules per asymmetric unit (SHP2 molecule A residues 1, 91–92, 157–162, 236–244, 298–299, 314–322, and 526, and SHP2 molecule B residues 1, 91–92, 156–162, 236–244, 298–299, 314–323, and 526, were not observed in the electron density map and so were not modeled). The stereochemical quality of the model was analyzed using MolProbity,²⁷ which performs Ramachandran plot, *C* β deviation, and rotamer analyses. The agreement of the model to the diffraction data was analyzed using SFCheck 7.2.02.²⁸ Atomic coordinates and structure factors for SHP2_{1–526,N308D} have been deposited with the Protein Data Bank as entry 6ATD.

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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