[Supplementary Data]

## **Design and evaluation of locked nucleic acid-based spliceswitching oligonucleotides in vitro**

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#### **SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL AND METHODS**

#### **Thermodynamic analysis of various lengths of LNA/DNA mixmer SSOs duplexes**

Gibbs free energy change ( $\Delta G^{\circ}_{25}$ ) during the duplex formation of 9-mer SSO (+114-1 4/9) and the complementary RNA was calculated by standard thermal UV melting analysis (61). Dissociation constant ( $K_d$ ) for the duplex was determined using the equation,  $K_d = 1/\exp(-\Delta G^{\circ}/298.15R)$ , where R was gas constant. Because the binding of our LNA/DNA mixmer SSOs to mRNA was too strong to determine the dissociation constant directly from calorimetric or stopped flow experiments,  $\Delta G^{\circ}_{25}$  and dissociation constant at 25°C for the other SSOs were estimated by competition assays.

In our analysis, equal amount of a 5' 6-carboxyfluorescein (6-FAM)-labeled SSO (A strand) and the complementary RNA (B strand) was mixed with various amount of a competitor SSO (X strand) in 10 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.2) containing 100 mM NaCl. The initial concentration of each (A and B) strand was  $C_0$  (6.67  $\times$  10<sup>-8</sup> M). To give equal opportunities to the competing strands (A and X) for hybridization with RNA (B strand), B strand was added to the solution in last. The solution was heated to 100°C and annealed to 25°C with cooling rate 0.5°C/min. After separation by 15% nondenaturing PAGE, the gel was analyzed using an ImageQuant LAS4010 (GE Healthcare Bio-sciences AB, Uppsala, Sweden). The fluorescence intensity that corresponds to the amount of a labeled duplex  $(F_{AB})$  was measured by using ImageJ software. The decrement of the  $F_{AB}$  with increasing free competitor SSO concentration [X] was fitted to the following equation with an assumption [A] >>  $K_{d(AB)}$ , where Max and BG respectively indicated maximum change of  $F_{AB}$  and background fluorescence intensity, and half maximal inhibitory concentration of the competitor SSO  $(IC_{50})$  was determined (Supplementary Figure S11).

 $F_{AB}$  = Max(1 - [X]/([X] + IC<sub>50</sub>)) + BG

In this analysis,  $IC_{50}$  is defined as the concentration of free competitor SSO at which half of the labeled duplex is present at equilibrium. The analysis was carried out at least three times independently and the average  $IC_{50}$  values were adopted. The relative affinities between two competing molecules were calculated as follows.

 $K_{d(BX)}/K_{d(AB)} = 2 \times IC_{50}/C_0$ 

 $\Delta\Delta G^{\circ}_{25} = \Delta G^{\circ}_{25(BX)} - \Delta G^{\circ}_{25(AB)} = 298.15R \ln(K_{d(BX)}/K_{d(AB)})$ 

Based on the resulting  $\Delta\Delta G^{\circ}_{25}$  and actual measured  $\Delta G^{\circ}_{25}$  value for 9-mer SSO (+114-1\_4/9),  $\Delta G^{\circ}_{25}$ and  $K_d$  values for the other SSOs were estimated.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE AND FIGURES LEGENDS**

**Supplementary Table S1.** SSOs used for the first screening. Nine SSOs for dystrophin exon 58 skipping are shown. Sequences are shown from 5' to 3'. Capital letter A, G, T: LNA; C: 5-methyl cytosine LNA; lowercase letter: DNA.

**Supplementary Table S2.** SSOs used for the second screening. Twenty-nine SSOs for dystrophin exon 58 skipping are shown. Sequences are shown from 5' to 3'.

**Supplementary Table S3.** SSOs used for the third screening. Ten SSOs for dystrophin exon 58 skipping are shown. Sequences are shown from 5' to 3'.

**Supplementary Table S4.** SSOs targeting 5' splice site used for  $T_m$  and exon skipping analysis. SSOs for each experiment are shown. Sequences are shown from 5' to 3'.  $T_m$  values (low salt: 2  $\mu$ M duplex in 10 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.2), 10 mM NaCl (n = 4); medium salt: 2  $\mu$ M duplex in 10 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.2), 100 mM NaCl ( $n = 3$ )) were determined ( $\pm$  SD). Capital letter A, G, T: LNA; C: 5-methyl cytosine LNA; capital letter with underline: 2'-OMe RNA; lowercase letter: DNA.

**Supplementary Table S5.** SSOs targeting 3' splice site used for  $T_m$  and exon skipping analysis. SSOs for each experiment are shown. Sequences are shown from 5' to 3'.  $T_m$  values (2  $\mu$ M duplex in 10 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.2), 10 mM NaCl) were determined in four independent experiments (± SD).

**Supplementary Table S6.** SSOs used for analysis of SSO length. SSOs for each experiment are shown. Sequences are shown from 5' to 3'.  $T_m$  values (2  $\mu$ M duplex in 10 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.2), 10 mM NaCl) were determined in four independent experiments (± SD). Gibbs free energy change ( $\Delta G^{\circ}_{25}$ ) for SSO (+114-1\_4/9) was calculated by standard thermal UV melting analysis (2  $\mu$ M duplex in 10 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.2), 100 mM NaCl). Dissociation constant (K<sub>d</sub>) for SSO (+1141\_4/9) was calculated using the equation:  $K_d = 1/\exp(-\Delta G^{\circ}/298.15R)$ .  $\Delta G^{\circ}_{25}$  and  $K_d$  for the other SSOs were estimated by competition assays.

**Supplementary Table S7.** SSOs used for analysis of 9-mer SSOs. SSOs for each experiment are shown. Sequences are shown from 5' to 3'.  $T_m$  values (2  $\mu$ M duplex in 10 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.2), 10 mM NaCl) were determined in four independent experiments (± SD).

**Supplementary Table S8.** SSOs used for analysis of short SSOs. SSOs for each experiment are shown. Sequences are shown from 5' to 3'.  $T_m$  values (2  $\mu$ M duplex in 10 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.2), 10 mM NaCl) were determined in three or four independent experiments  $(\pm SD)$ .

**Supplementary Table S9.** SSOs used for mismatch discrimination. SSOs for each experiment are shown. Sequences are shown from 5' to 3'. Nucleotides of mismatch sites are double underlined.

**Supplementary Table S10.** Primers used for RT-PCR analysis. Sequences of forward (For.) and reverse (Rev.) primer for each target are shown. Sequences are shown from 5' to 3'.

**Supplementary Table S11.** Primers used for quantitative real-time RT-PCR analysis. Sequences of forward (For.) and reverse (Rev.) primer for each target are shown. Sequences are shown from 5' to 3'.

**Supplementary Figure S1.** Schematic representation of the dystrophin reporter minigene and of the its splicing pattern. Human dystrophin exons are indicated by open boxes and introns by narrow lines. Solid boxes represent vector sequences. Lines connecting the exons represent the splicing patterns. The expected mRNA structures, indicated below the minigene structure result from inclusion or exclusion of exon 58. Small black arrows and small purple arrows indicate approximate positions of primers used for RT-PCR and quantitative real-time RT-PCR, respectively.

**Supplementary Figure S2.** Screening of LNA SSOs designed to induce dystrophin exon 58 skipping. **(A, B)** Reporter cells were transfected with the indicated SSOs (100 nM) for 24 h. The levels of reporter minigene mRNA fragments were measured by RT-PCR, and the signal intensity of each band was normalized according to its nucleotide composition. The exon skipping percentage was calculated as the amount of exon skipped transcript relative to the total amount of exon skipped and full-length transcripts. Values represent the mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of triplicate or sixplicate samples. Reproducible results were obtained from two independent experiments. (A) and (B) express the results of the first and the second screening, respectively. Mock: treated with Lipofectamine only; no treatment: no transfection.

**Supplementary Figure S3.** Prediction of splice factor binding site in human dystrophin exon 58. The locations of potential binding sites for the splicing factors SRSF1 (SF2/ASF), SRSF1 (IgM-BRCA1), SRSF2 (SC35), SRSF5 (SRp40), and SRSF6 (SRp55) in human dystrophin exon 58 and 50 bases of flanking intronic sequence were predicted by using ESEfinder3.0.

**Supplementary Figure S4.** Effect of the number of LNA variations on exon skipping activity. **(A, B)** Reporter cells were transfected with the indicated SSOs (30 nM), targeting the 5' (A) or 3' (B) splice site, for 24 h. The levels of reporter minigene mRNA fragments were measured by RT-PCR, and the signal intensity of each band was normalized according to its nucleotide composition. The exon skipping percentage was calculated as the amount of exon skipped transcript relative to the total amount of exon skipped and full-length transcripts. LNA SSO (+10+24), which showed no exon skipping effects, was used as a control. Values represent the mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of triplicate samples. Reproducible results were obtained from two independent experiments. The  $T<sub>m</sub>$  of each SSO with a complementary RNA under low-sodium conditions is also shown. # indicates that no sigmoidal melting curve was observed, even at higher  $T_m$  values. The data are the mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (n = 4). Mock: treated with Lipofectamine only; no treatment: no transfection.

**Supplementary Figure S5.** Assessment of the effect of the length of LNA/DNA mixmer SSOs on exon skipping. Reporter cells were transfected with the indicated SSOs (30 nM) for 24 h. The levels of reporter minigene mRNA fragments were measured by RT-PCR, and the signal intensity of each band was normalized according to its nucleotide composition. The exon skipping percentage was calculated as the amount of exon skipped transcript relative to the total amount of exon skipped and full-length transcripts. LNA SSO (+10+24), which showed no exon skipping effects, was used as a control. Values represent the mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of triplicate samples. Reproducible results were obtained from two independent experiments. The  $T_m$  of each SSO with a complementary RNA under low-sodium conditions is also shown. # indicates that no sigmoidal melting curve was observed, even at higher  $T_m$  values. The data are the mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (n = 4). Mock: treated with Lipofectamine only; no treatment: no transfection.

**Supplementary Figure S6.** Exon skipping activity of LNA/DNA mixmer SSOs at various concentrations. **(A, C)** Reporter cells were transfected with the indicated SSOs, targeting the 3' (A) or 5' (C) splice site, at various concentrations for 24 h. The levels of reporter minigene mRNA fragments were measured by RT-PCR, and the signal intensity of each band was normalized according to its nucleotide composition. The exon skipping percentage was calculated as the amount of exon skipped transcript relative to the total amount of exon skipped and full-length transcripts. LNA SSO (+10+24), which showed no exon skipping effects, was used as a control. **(B)** RT-PCR analysis shows the fulllength upper band (587 bp) and the skipped lower band (466 bp). GAPDH was used as an internal control. **(D)** The exon 58 skipping levels were measured by quantitative real-time RT-PCR and normalized to GAPDH mRNA levels, relative to the values in the mock set as 1. Values represent the mean ± standard deviation of triplicate samples. Reproducible results were obtained from two independent experiments. Mock: treated with Lipofectamine only; no treatment: no transfection.

**Supplementary Figure S7.** Inducing exon skipping by 9-mer LNA/DNA mixmer SSOs. Reporter cells were transfected with the indicated SSOs (30 nM) for 24 h. The levels of reporter minigene mRNA fragments were measured by RT-PCR and the signal intensity of each band was normalized according to its nucleotide composition. The exon skipping percentage was calculated as the amount of exon skipped transcript relative to the total amount of exon skipped and full-length transcripts. LNA

SSO (+10+24), which showed no exon skipping effects, was used as a control. Values represent the mean ± standard deviation of triplicate samples. Reproducible results were obtained from two independent experiments. The  $T_m$  of each SSO with a complementary RNA under low-sodium conditions is also shown. The data are the mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (n = 4). Mock: treated with Lipofectamine only; no treatment: no transfection.

**Supplementary Figure S8.** 9-mer LNA SSOs induce exon skipping in a concentration-dependent manner. **(A-D)** RT-PCR analyses of RNA samples from reporter cells treated with the indicated SSOs at various concentrations for 24 h show the full-length upper band (587 bp) and the skipped lower band (466 bp). LNA SSO (+10+24), which showed no exon skipping effects, was used as a control. GAPDH was used as an internal control. **(E)** The signal intensity of each band was normalized according to its nucleotide composition. The exon skipping percentage was calculated as the amount of exon skipped transcript relative to the total amount of exon skipped and full-length transcripts. Values represent the mean ± standard deviation of triplicate samples. Reproducible results were obtained from two independent experiments. Mock: treated with Lipofectamine only; no treatment: no transfection.

**Supplementary Figure S9.** Exon skipping activity of short (6- to 9-mer) LNA SSOs. RT-PCR analyses of RNA samples from reporter cells treated with the indicated SSOs (30 nM) for 24 h. The signal intensity of each band was normalized according to its nucleotide composition. The exon skipping percentage was calculated as the amount of exon skipped transcript relative to the total amount of exon skipped and full-length transcripts. LNA SSO (+10+24), which showed no exon skipping effects, was used as a control. GAPDH was used as an internal control. Values represent the mean ± standard deviation of triplicate samples. Reproducible results were obtained from two independent experiments. The  $T_m$  of each SSO with a complementary RNA under low-sodium conditions is also shown. The data are the mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (n = 3-4). Mock: treated with Lipofectamine only; no treatment: no transfection.

**Supplementary Figure S10.** Effect of mismatches on exon skipping activity and specificity. Reporter cells were transfected with the indicated SSOs (30 nM) for 24 h. The levels of reporter minigene mRNA fragments were measured by RT-PCR, and the signal intensity of each band was normalized according to its nucleotide composition. The exon skipping percentage was calculated as the amount of exon skipped transcript relative to the total amount of exon skipped and full-length transcripts. LNA SSO (+10+24), which showed no exon skipping effects, was used as a control. Values represent the mean ± standard deviation of triplicate samples. Reproducible results were obtained from two independent experiments. Mock: treated with Lipofectamine only; no treatment: no transfection.

**Supplementary Figure S11.** Quantitative analysis of competitive inhibition of 5' 6-FAM-labeled SSO duplex formation to the complementary RNA. Equal amount of a 5' 6-FAM-labeled SSO (A strand) and the complementary RNA (B strand) was mixed with various amount of an unlabeled competitor SSO (X strand) and annealed in 10 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.2) containing 100 mM NaCl. After separation by 15% non-denaturing PAGE, the decrement of the fluorescence intensity that

corresponds to the amount of a labeled duplex (AB signal) with increasing free competitor SSO concentration [X] was curve fitted and half maximal inhibitory concentration of the competitor SSO  $(IC_{50})$  was determined.

### **Supplementary Table S1.**



### **Supplementary Table S2.**



### **Supplementary Table S3.**



### **Supplementary Table S4.**



### **Supplementary Table S5.**



### **Supplementary Table S6.**



### **Supplementary Table S7.**



### **Supplementary Table S8.**



### **Supplementary Table S9.**



### **Supplementary Table S10.**



### **Supplementary Table S11.**



#### **SUPPLEMENTARY REFERENCES**

61. Kawakami, J., Tanaka, Y. and Kishimoto, K. (2009) Accurate curve fitting procedure for UV melting analysis of highly thermostable RNA hairpins. *Nucleic Acids Symp Ser (Oxf)*, 227-228.

Dystrophin reporter minigene















**Supplementary Fig. 6** 



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