



SUPPLEMENTARY FIG. S2. Osmium tetroxide (OsO_4) probing of PNA–hairpin complexes. Hairpin DNA with (lane 2) or without (lane 1) $\text{G}_4\text{T}_4\text{G}_4$ PNA was probed with OsO_4 that reacts with thymidines in single-stranded regions. The results show that only thymidine in the loop (marked with *bracket*) are reactive proving that PNA binding does not result in unwinding of the hairpin's DNA stem.