



Supplementary Information for

Folate deficiency drives mitotic missegregation of the human *FRAXA* locus

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SUPPLEMENTARY TEXT

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Cell lines and cell culture

Epstein-Barr virus immortalized human B-Lymphocyte cell lines containing different CGG repeat copy number at the *FRAXA* locus were from the Coriell Biorepository: GM06865 (male, with 27 CGG repeats), GM20230 (male, with 47 CGG repeats), GM06891 (male, with 100-117 CGG repeats), GM06852 (male, with over 200 CGG repeats) (1), and GM09237 (male, with 931-940 CGG repeats) (1, 2). The expression of the FMRP gene in the above cells lines was analyzed using conventional western blotting. The *FRAXA* CGG repeat length of cell lines expressing FMRP was confirmed by a published *FMRI* allele assay (3) by Laragen (Laragen Inc, USA). B-lymphocytes were maintained in RPMI 1640 Medium (Gibco) supplemented with 15% fetal bovine serum (FBS; ThermoFisher Scientific) and antibiotics. The cells were maintained at 37°C in a humidified atmosphere with 5% CO₂, and were routinely subjected to mycoplasma testing (using MycoAlert; Lonza). Only mycoplasma-free cells were analyzed.

Cell synchronization and treatment

To obtain metaphase chromosomes, asynchronous cells under various conditions including untreated (Unt), with 0.5 μM 5-Fluorodeoxyuridine (FdU; Abcam), 0.4 μM aphidicolin (APH; Sigma Aldrich), or 0.4 mM hydroxyurea (HU; Sigma Aldrich) for 22h were synchronized in metaphase by being cultured with colcemid (100 ng/ml; ThermoFisher Scientific) for the last 5h of the 22h treatment. To analyze cells cultured with 'No folate' condition, cells were cultured in RPMI 1640 medium without folic acid (Gibco) for 72h, and were then synchronized at metaphase by being cultured with colcemid (100 ng/ml; ThermoFisher Scientific) for the last 5h before harvesting.

To harvest anaphase/telophase cells, asynchronous cells cultured with various conditions including untreated (Unt), with 0.5 μM 5-Fluorodeoxyuridine (FdU) (ab142670, Abcam), or 0.4 μM aphidicolin (APH) (89458-5MG, Sigma Aldrich) for 17h and synchronized in late G2 phase using RO3306 (12 μM) (217699, Merck) for 9h. Cells were then released

from the RO3306 arrest, incubated for 30 mins or 45 mins in pre-warmed (37°C) cell culture medium, and then seeded onto Poly L-Lysine coated slides (Sigma Aldrich) prior to fixation. For cells cultured in RPMI 1640 without folic acid (No folate), RO3306 was added to the medium after 72h of incubation, and the cells were released after 9 hours as described above. To inhibit RAD51 activity in G2 phase, RAD51 inhibitor RI-1 (60 µM) (ab144558, Abcam) was added during the last 2h of RO3306 synchronization. G2 arrested cells or anaphases/telophases were then harvested for further analysis.

To analyze micronucleus formation following FdU treatment, cells were released from FdU containing medium into medium containing 10 µM 5-ethynyl-2'-deoxyuridine (EdU; ThermoFisher Scientific) for 3h. Cells were then cultured with cytochalasin B (3 µg/ml; C6762, Sigma-Aldrich), in the absence of EdU, for 16h, and seeded onto Poly L-Lysine slides (Sigma-Aldrich) for further analysis.

Fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH)

To analyze mitotic chromosomes, cells treated with colcemid as above were harvested using standard procedures. The cells were then swollen in 75 mM KCl (at 37°C), fixed in methanol:acetic acid (3:1) and then dropped onto glass slides. To analyze anaphase or G1 cells, cells were seeded on Poly L-Lysine slides (Sigma-Aldrich) and fixed in methanol:acetic acid (3:1). FISH probes were prepared from the following BAC clones: RP11-383P16 (GenBank: AC233288.1) for *FRAXA*, RP11-249C12 (GenBank: AQ508215.1) for *ChXCEN*, and RP11-264L1 (GenBank: AC046158.6) for *FRA16D*. Probes were labeled using the BioNick labeling system (Thermo Fisher Scientific) or DIG-nick translation mix (Sigma Aldrich). FISH was carried out using standard procedures. Briefly, samples were treated with RNase A, followed by dehydration in an ethanol series (70%, 90%, 96%) at RT for 2 mins each. Samples were denatured in 70% formamide at 75°C for 3 mins, and dehydrated again in an ice-cold ethanol series (70%, 90%, 96%) for 2 mins each. FISH-probe hybridization was carried out at 37°C for 16 to 72h. Biotin-conjugated probes were detected using avidin-FITC (ThermoFisher Scientific) and biotin-labeled anti-avidin (Vector Labs). DIG-conjugated FISH probes were detected using anti-digoxigenin-rhodamine (Roche) and Alexa Fluor 568 donkey

anti-sheep IgG (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Slides were mounted using Vectashield mounting medium with DAPI. Images were captured using an Olympus BX63 microscope and analyzed using CellSens (Olympus) or Fiji/ImageJ software.

Immunofluorescence (IF) analysis

To analyze G2 phase cells with IF, RO3306 arrested cells were seeded onto coated cytoslides (Thermo Fisher Scientific) at 500 rpm using a Cytospin 4 cytocentrifuge (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and then fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) fixation buffer (4% PFA, 250 mM HEPES, 1xPBS, 0.2% Triton X-100) for 20 mins at room temperature (RT).

To analyze metaphase chromosomes with IF or FISH combined with IF, colcemid treated cells were swollen in hypotonic solution (10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 10 mM NaCl, 5 mM MgCl₂), harvested onto coated cytoslides at 850 rpm using Cytospin and then fixed in 4% PFA fixation buffer (4% PFA, 250 mM HEPES, 1xPBS, 0.4% Triton X-100) for 20 mins at 4°C.

To analyze anaphase cells, following the treatment, cells were seeded onto Poly L-Lysine slides (Sigma-Aldrich) and harvested at low speed (300 rpm) using Cytospin and fixed in 4% PFA fixation buffer for 20 mins at 4°C. Samples were then blocked for 2h in 5% bovine serum albumin (BSA) and incubated with primary antibodies overnight at 4°C, and then with secondary antibodies for 1h at RT. Slides were either further processed for with FISH combined with IF, or mounted using Vectashield with or without DAPI (Vector Laboratories). Images were captured using Olympus microscopes (BX63 or IX83) and then analyzed using CellSens (Olympus) or Fiji/ImageJ software. Primary antibodies used were: PICH (1:200, in-house), RPA (1:200, ab2175, Abcam), FANCD2 (1:400, NB100-182, Novus), cyclin A (1:100, ab16726, Abcam), RAD51 (1:100, sc8349, Santa Cruz Biotechnology). Secondary antibodies used were: For FANCD2: Alexa Fluor 647 donkey anti-rabbit IgG (1:500, A-31573; Thermo Fisher Scientific) or Alexa Fluor 568 goat anti-Rabbit IgG (1:500, A-110291; Thermo Fisher Scientific). For RAD51: Alexa Fluor 488 goat anti-rabbit (1:400, A-11008; Thermo Fisher Scientific). For PICH:

Alexa Fluor 488 goat anti-guinea pig IgG (1:500, A-11073; Thermo Fisher Scientific) or Alexa Fluor 568 goat anti-guinea pig IgG (1:500, A-11075; Thermo Fisher Scientific). For RPA and cyclin A: Alexa Fluor 568 goat anti-mouse (1:500, A-11004; Thermo Fisher Scientific) or Alexa Fluor 488 goat anti-mouse (1:500, A-150113; Thermo Fisher Scientific).

FISH combined with IF

First IF was carried out as described above. For antibodies that could tolerate the FISH conditions, samples were re-fixed in 8% PFA for 20 mins on ice prior to FISH analysis. For FISH, samples were denatured at 88°C for 5 mins and then processed as described above in FISH section. For antibodies that could not tolerate the FISH conditions, images were captured before and after FISH analysis using CellSens stage navigation. For these samples, the re-fixation step was carried out with 4% PFA fixation buffer and the DNA was denatured at 80°C for 5 mins. Images were captured using an Olympus BX63 microscope and analyzed using CellSens (Olympus) or Fiji/ImageJ software.

Flow cytometry

Cells were harvested and fixed in 70% ethanol (added dropwise while vortexing) and stored at -20°C for a minimum of 2h. Cells were centrifuged at 500 g for 5 mins at 4°C and then washed once in 1% BSA in PBS, centrifuged again, and stained with staining solution (2 mg/ml propidium iodide (Thermo Fisher Scientific), 10 mg/ml RNase A (Sigma-Aldrich) in 1 x PBS for 30 mins at 37°C. Fluorescence-activated cell sorting analysis was carried out on a FACSCalibur flow cytometer (BD Biosciences). For each condition, at least 20,000 events were recorded, and data analysis was performed using FlowJo software.

Western blot analysis

Cells were lysed using cell extraction buffer (FNN0011; Life technologies), supplemented with Protease inhibitor cocktail (PIC, Roche). Following protein quantification of the whole cell lysate, aliquots of samples were incubated for 10 mins at 70°C with NUPAGE SDS sample buffer (ThermoFisher Scientific), run on a SDS-PAGE

gel and transferred to a Hybond-PVDF membrane (Amersham Pharmacia). The membrane was blocked in PBST with 5% non-fat dry milk (Sigma Aldrich) for 1h at RT and then incubated overnight with a primary antibody re-suspended in PBST (with 5% non-fat dry milk) at 4°C. Following 3 x 15 min washes using PBST, the membrane was incubated for up to 2h at RT with a secondary antibody re-suspended in PBST (with 5% non-fat dry milk) at room temperature, followed by 4 x 15 min washes in PBST. Luminata Forte HRP substrate (Millipore) was used for signal detection, and images were captured on an Amersham Imager 600. Primary antibodies used were: FMRP (1:1000, ab17722; Abcam), and Actin (1:1000, A3853, AC-40, Sigma Aldrich). Secondary antibodies used were: anti-rabbit IgG (1:1000, A6667; Sigma Aldrich) and anti-mouse IgG (1:1000, A4416; Sigma Aldrich).

The *FMR1* CGG allele assay in sub-populations of GM06891 cells

To analyze the effect of folate stress on CGG repeat stability in *FRAXA* pre-mutation allele, GM06891 cells were cultured under the following conditions: untreated (Unt) or exposed to FdU (0.5 μ M) for 17 h, or in RPMI 1640 medium without folic acid for 5 days (No folate). The cells were then counted and seeded into 12-wells plates as sub-populations (pooled-clones; 200 cells/well) (Fig. S7). These small populations of cells were cultured with standard medium for 2 weeks and were then harvested for DNA extraction. DNA was extracted using a QIAamp DNA Micro Kit (Qiagen) following the manufacturer's instructions. DNA samples were then subjected to analysis of *FMR1* allele length (3) by Laragen (Laragen Inc, USA).

Statistical analysis

At least three independent experiments were carried out to generate each data set. Statistical significance in each case was calculated using chi-squared test. In the *FMR1* CGG allele assay in GM06981 cells, 23 pooled-clones per condition were analyzed and the Student's t-test was performed to calculate statistical differences.

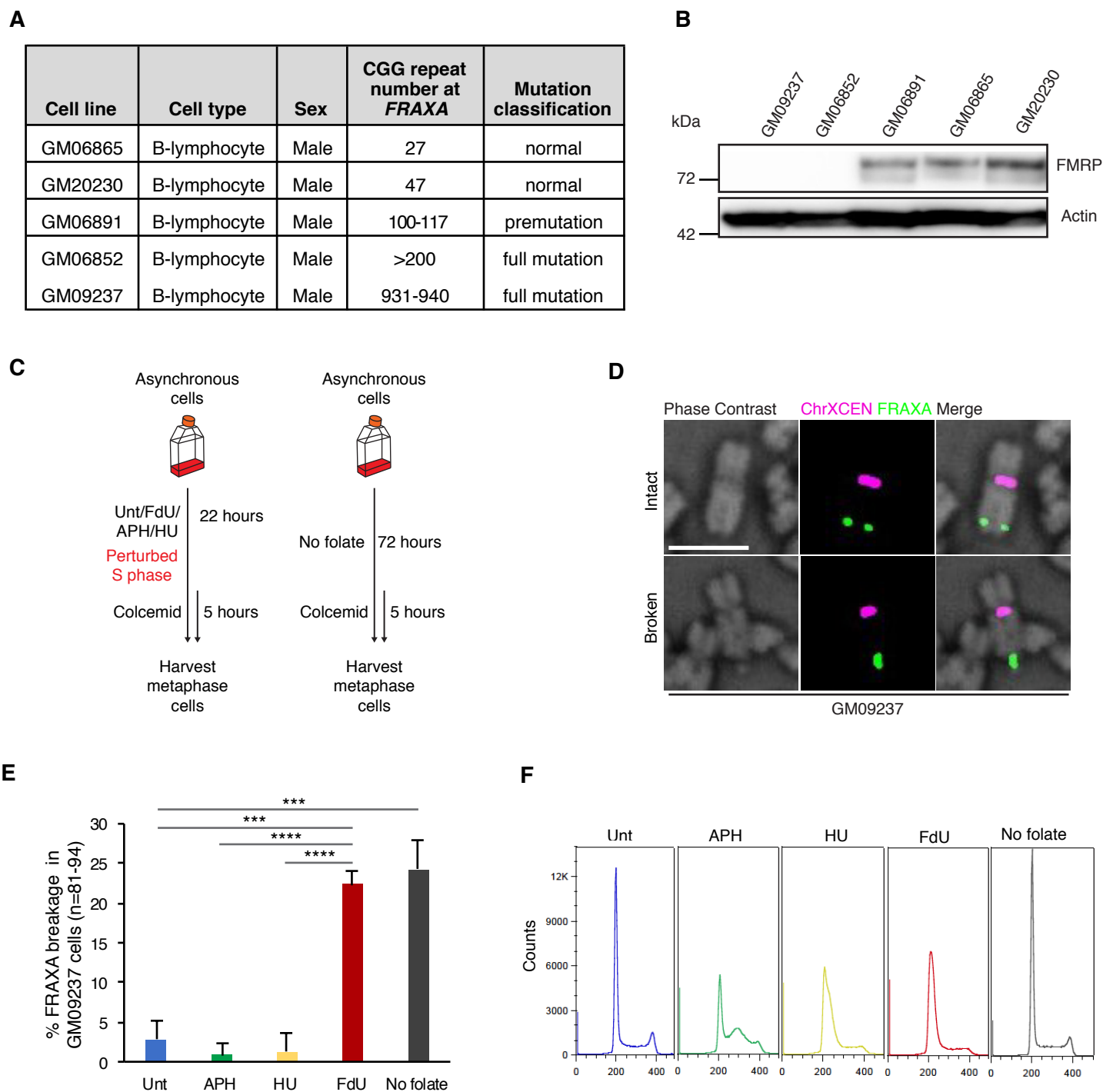


Fig. S1. (relates to Fig. 1). FdU treatment or folate deprivation, but not APH or HU treatment, induces fragility at *FRAXA*. (A) A table of the cell lines used in this study. (B) Western blot analysis of FMRP protein expression in the panel of lymphocytes analyzed. (C) Experimental workflow for the analysis of fragility in metaphase chromosomes. Representative images (D) and quantification (E) of *FRAXA* fragility in GM09237 cells that have a FM *FRAXA* allele. A cell line with a normal *FRAXA* allele (GM06865) was analyzed in parallel. Fragility at *FRAXA* was not observed in GM06865 cells under any of the conditions tested (not shown). Scale bar, 5 μ m. Data are means of at least three independent experiments. Error bars represent SDs (***)denotes $p < 0.001$; ****denotes $p < 0.0001$); (F) Representative flow cytometry profiles of GM09237 cells under different conditions prior to the addition of colcemid for metaphase chromosome analysis.

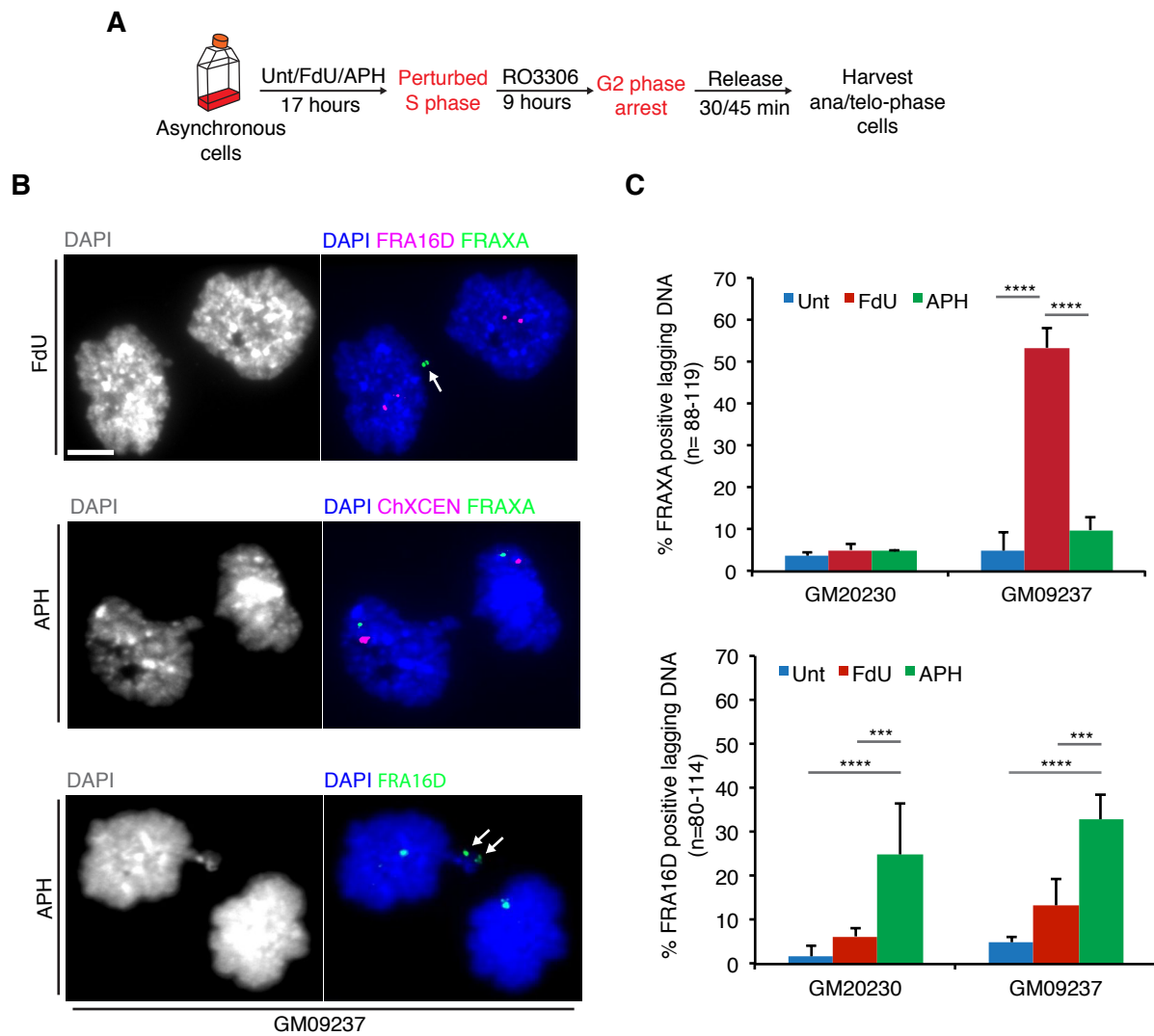


Fig. S2. (relates to Fig. 1). FRAXA associated lagging DNA is only induced by FdU treatment, while CFS associated lagging DNA at FRA16D is only induced by APH treatment. (A) Experimental workflow for the analysis of lagging DNA in anaphase cells. Representative images (B) and quantification (C) of lagging DNA containing FRAXA or FRA16D in cells with normal (GM20230) or FM (GM09237) FRAXA alleles under FdU or APH conditions. White arrows indicate lagging DNA containing FRAXA or FRA16D. The FRAXA and FRA16D loci were detected using the corresponding FISH probes. A chromosome X centromere probe (ChXCEN) was used as a control for the normal segregation of the other parts of chromosome X under FdU or APH conditions. Scale bar, 5 μ m. Data are means of at least three independent experiments. Error bars represent SDs. (***)denotes $p < 0.001$; (****)denotes $p < 0.0001$). (D) Representative flow cytometry profiles of GM09237 cells under different conditions prior to and after the addition of RO3306 for anaphase/telemphase cell analysis.

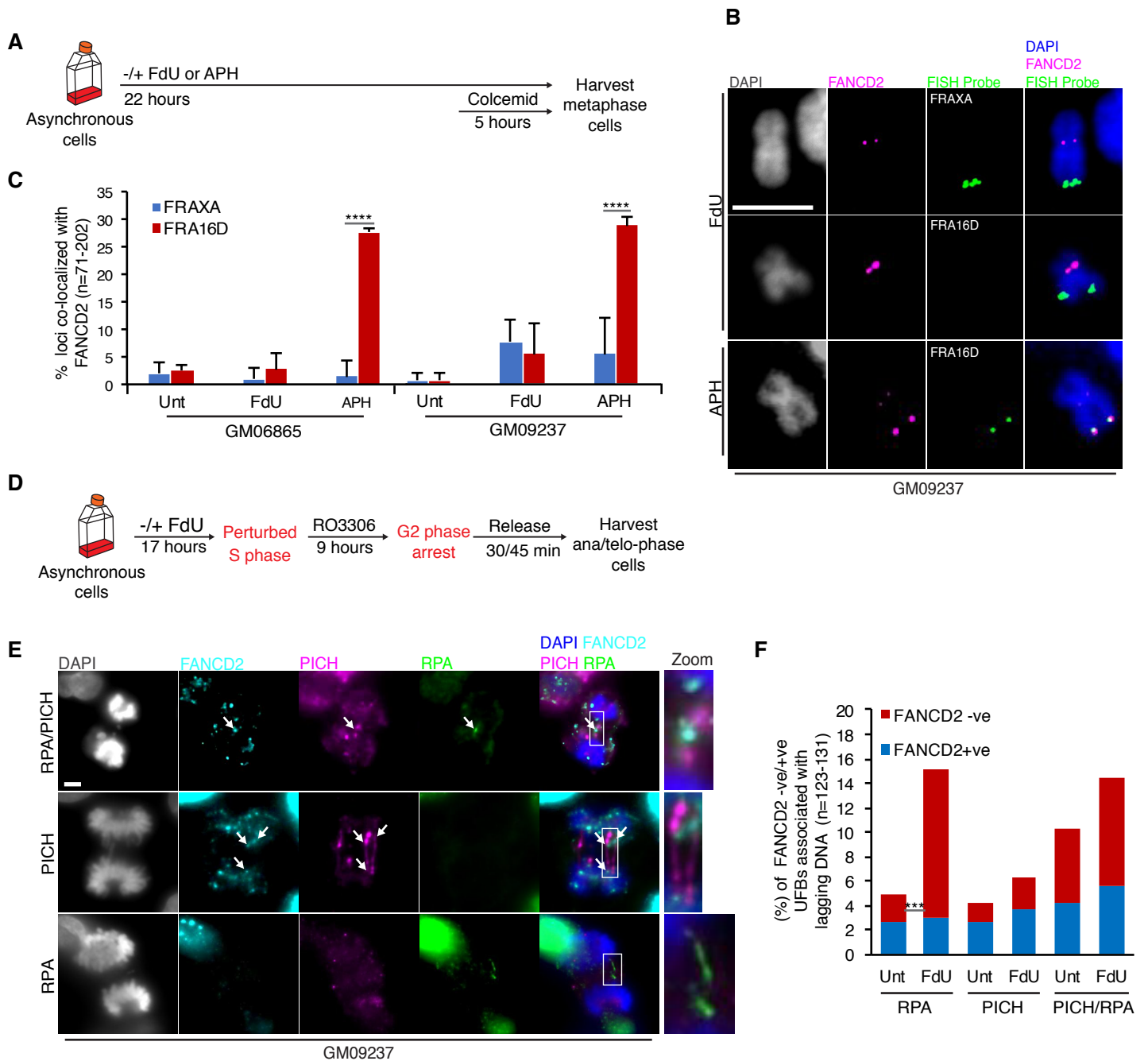


Fig. S3. (relates to Fig. 2). The FM FRAXA locus is not marked by FANCD2 following FdU treatment.

(A) Experimental workflow for the analysis of metaphase chromosomes following FdU or APH treatment. (B) Representative images of the location of FANCD2 foci (red) on chromosomes in FM GM09237 cells treated with either FdU (top two panels) or APH (bottom panel). FRAXA or FRA16D was detected by the corresponding FISH probe respectively (green). (C) Quantification of the co-localization of FRAXA or FRA16D with FANCD2 foci following FdU or APH treatment in GM06865 or GM09237 cells. (D) Experimental workflow for the analysis of ana/telo-phase GM09237 cells by IF with a FANCD2 antibody combined with RPA, PICH, or RPA and PICH antibodies following FdU treatment. (E) Representative images of FANCD2 foci (blue) and anaphase UFBs that are bound with either RPA, or PICH, or RPA/PICH. White arrows indicate FANCD2 foci that localize adjacent to RPA or PICH. (F) Quantification of FANCD2 co-localization with either RPA, or PICH, or RPA/PICH UFBs in untreated or FdU treated conditions. Scale bar, 5 μm . Data are means of at least three independent experiments. Error bars represent SDs. (***)denotes $p < 0.001$; (****)denotes $p < 0.0001$).

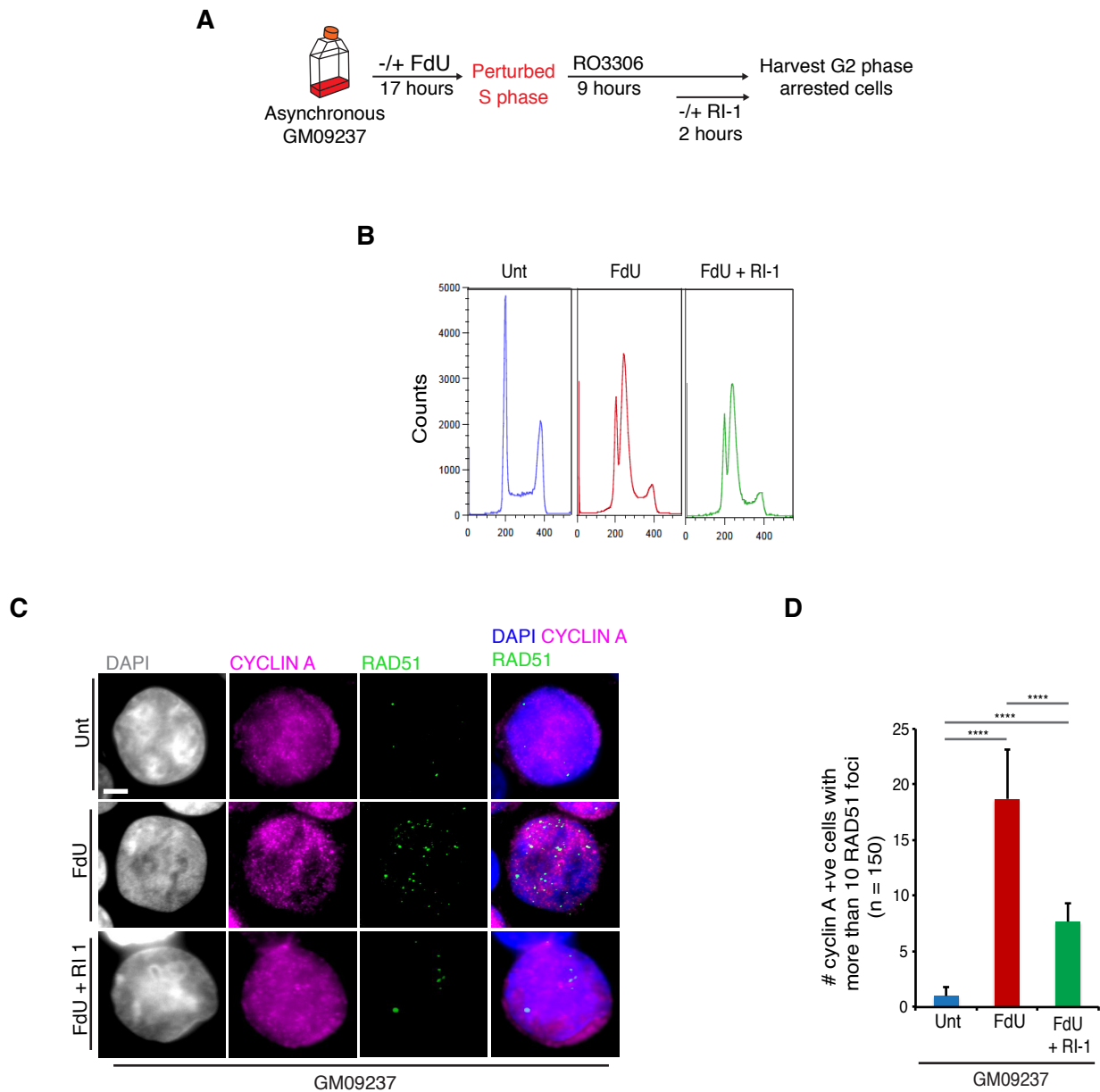


Fig. S4. (relates to Fig. 2). A RAD51 inhibitor (RI-1) reduces RAD51 activity following FdU treatment. (A) Experimental workflow for the analysis of the RAD51 inhibitor, RI-1, in G2 phase cells following FdU treatment. (B) Representative cell cycle profiles of GM09237 cells prior to being harvested for IF analysis following different treatments (untreated, FdU, or FdU combined with RI-1). (C) Representative images of RAD51 foci (green) in G2 phase cells (Cyclin A-positive; red) under the indicated conditions. (D) Quantification of Cyclin A-positive cells containing >10 RAD51 foci in G2 phase cells under the indicated conditions. Scale bar, 5 μm . Data are means of at least three independent experiments. Error bars represent SDs. (****denotes $p < 0.0001$)

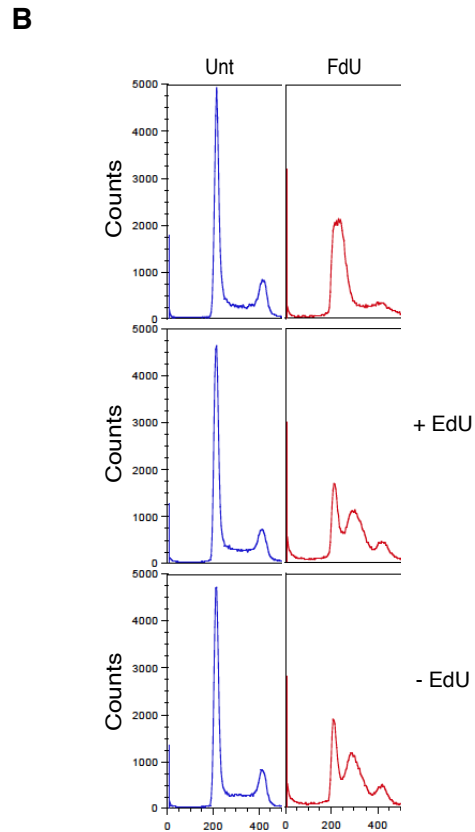
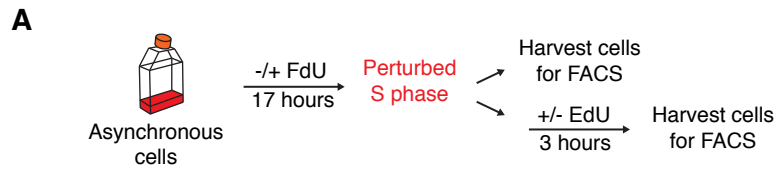
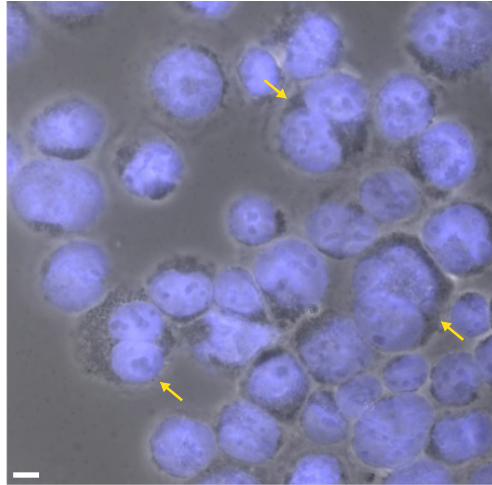


Fig. S5. (relates to Fig. 3) The cell cycle profile of cells treated with FdU and then labeled with EdU. (A) Experimental workflow for the treatment with FdU, and labeling with EdU. (B) Representative flow cytometry profiles of GM09237 cells harvested at the end of FdU treatment, or the end of EdU labeling.

A



B

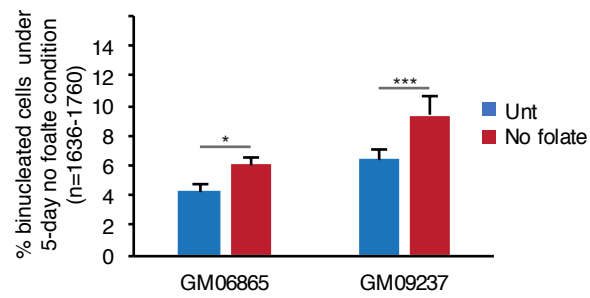


Fig. S6 (relates to Fig. 4). Extended folate deprivation causes an increase in the frequency of binucleated cells. (A) Representative images of cells with one or two nuclei. Yellow arrows indicate binucleated cells. Scale bar, 5 μ m. (B) Quantification of binucleation in normal and FM cells cultured in medium with or without folic acid for 5 days. (*denotes $p < 0.05$, and ***denotes $p < 0.001$)

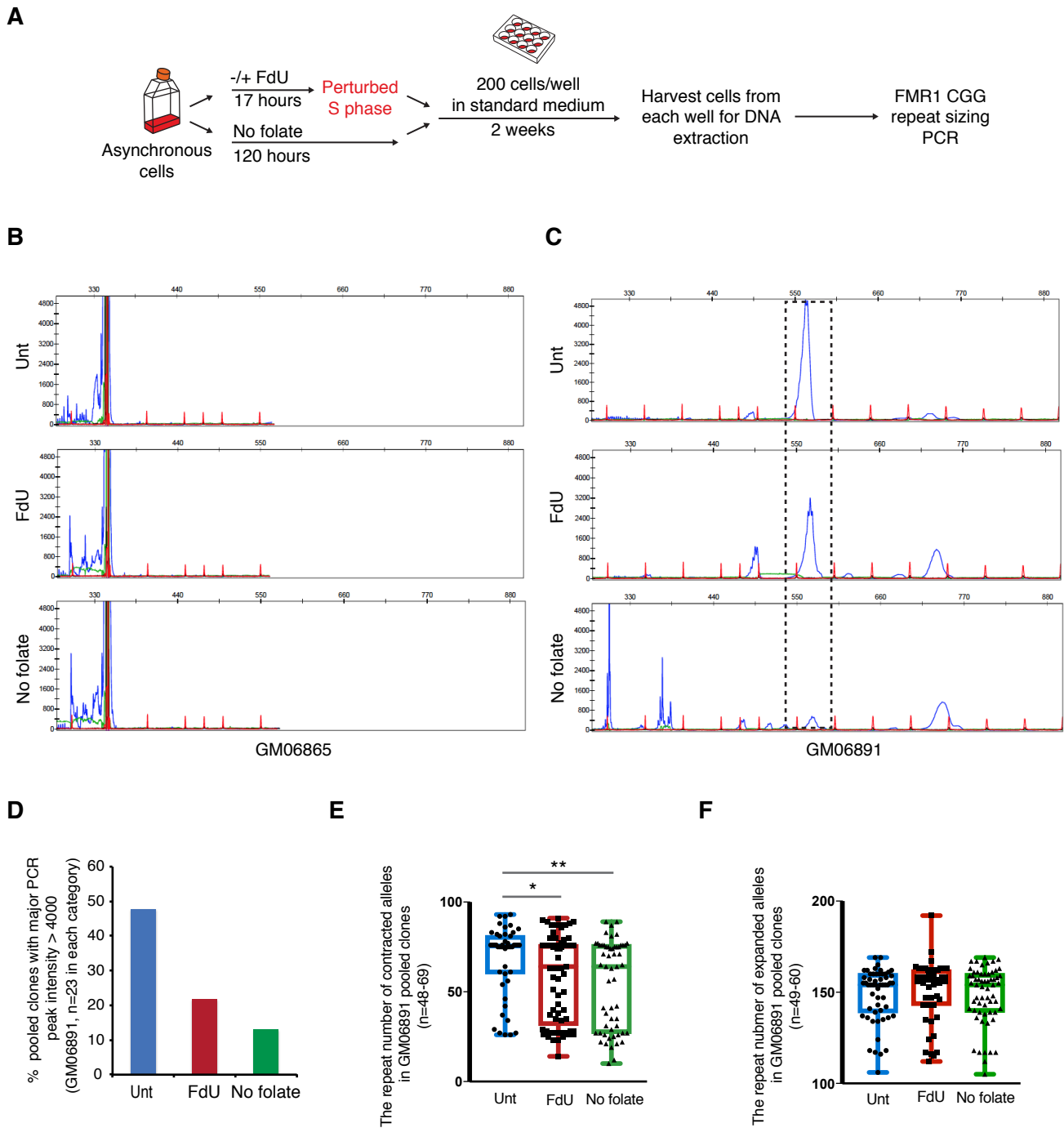


Fig. S7. The PM allele in GM06891 cells becomes unstable during folate stress. (A) Experimental workflow of the analysis of the FRAXA allele in PM cells (pooled clones) exposed to the indicated treatments. Representative images of the CGG repeat sizing PCR peaks in either normal (B) or PM (C) cell lines under the indicated treatment conditions. The x-axis indicates the PCR product size (bp) and the y-axis indicates the Relative Fluorescence Units (RFU) of the FAM-labeled PCR products. The major PCR peaks in PM cell line samples are highlighted in a dashed box. These peaks were quantified in (D). (D) Quantification of pooled clones with a major PCR peak above 4000 RFU after different treatment. Quantification and statistical analysis of the number of CGG repeats in contracted PM alleles (less than 98 repeats, set according to the minimum length of the expected repeat length in untreated samples; E) or expanded PM alleles (more than 103 repeats, set according to the maximum length of the expected repeat length in untreated samples; F) following the indicated treatments. (* denotes $p < 0.05$, and **denotes $p < 0.01$)

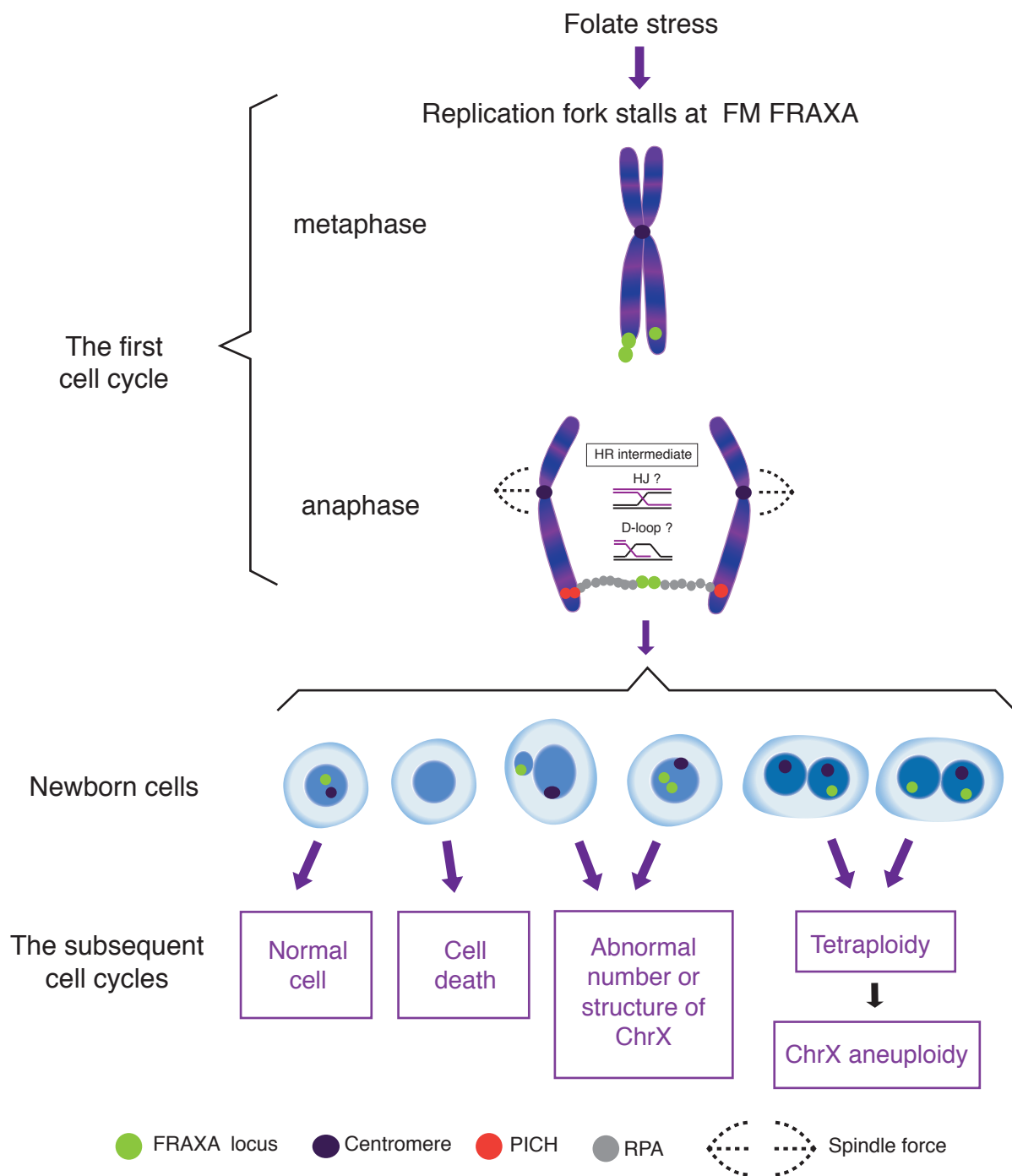


Fig. S8. The consequence of folate stress in cells with a mutant FRAXA allele.

In S phase, the replication of the FM allele is perturbed, leading to a greater chance of collapse of replication forks within FRAXA. This fork breakage initiates HR repair late in the cell cycle. A proportion of the HR intermediates (Holliday junctions, HJ; or D-loops) fail to be resolved prior to anaphase, leading to the formation of ssDNA bridges bound by RPA. This failure might be driven by the inability of the HR-derived DNA synthesis to progress through the CGG repeats. The FRAXA-containing bridges are ultimately either lost or retained in micronuclei in the next generation of G1 cells. Unresolved bridges might also trigger cytokinesis failure and hence promote the generation of binucleated cells, which tend to generate aneuploid progeny.

Supplementary References

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2. Seneca S, et al. (2012) Reliable and sensitive detection of fragile X (expanded) alleles in clinical prenatal DNA samples with a fast turnaround time. *J Mol Diagn* 14(6):560-568.
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