Alcohol-derived DNA crosslinks are repaired by two distinct mechanisms

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Supplemental note 1

Methods

Description of all methods used in the study.

Methods References

Supplemental note 2

SI Figure 1

NMR spectra of compounds generated for the synthesis of the aminodiol (*5*) crosslinker.

a. Scheme for the synthesis of aminodiol. **b**. ¹H NMR spectrum and $13C\{1H\}$, ¹³C DEPT-135 and ¹³C DEPT-90 NMR spectra of (R) -2-(Pent-4-en-2-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione, 2. **c**. ¹H NMR spectrum and 13C{1H}, ¹³C DEPT-135 and ¹³C DEPT-90 NMR spectra of benzyl *N*- $[(2R)$ -pent-4-en-2-yl]carbamate, 3. **d**. ¹H NMR spectrum and 13C{1H},¹³C DEPT-135 and ¹³C DEPT-90 NMR spectra of benzyl $[(2R)-4,5-dihydroxypentan-2-y]$ carbamate, 4. **e**. ¹H NMR spectrum and $13C\{1H\}$,¹³C DEPT-135 and ¹³C DEPT-90 NMR spectra of (4*R*)-4aminopentane-1,2-diol, 5.

Supplemental note 3

SI Figure 2

This file contains uncropped source images with indication (when relevant) of the area where the image was cropped and size markers.

Supplemental note 1

Methods

Synthesis of site-specific crosslinks

Reagents

Chemicals were supplied by Sigma (unless otherwise stated), except the reagents for HPLC and (4*R*)-4-aminopentane-1,2-diol synthesis, supplied by Link Technologies Ltd and Fluorochem Ltd. Culture medium was supplied by Gibco (Thermo Scientific)

Synthesis of the Cross Linker Aminodiol, **5**

We first approached the synthesis of the cross linker aminodiol **5**, following a protocol described by Cho *et al.*⁹ , who reported a 6-step synthesis of 13C-labelled aminodiol **5** starting from (R) -2-amino-1-propanol and used $K^{13}CN$ in one of the key step. However, in our hands, this 6-step protocol appeared to be cumbersome for scale up due to few non-reproducible, lowyielding steps and also involved handling highly toxic KCN and OsO4 reagents in couple of key steps. Hence, we designed an alternative route for the synthesis of aminodiol **5** starting from commercially available (*S*)-pent-4-en-2-ol **1** (SCHEME 1). Each and every step in this synthesis of aminodiol **5** were optimised to afford good to excellent yields that were reproducible during scale-up. Additionally, in this modified synthesis of **5**, highly toxic reagents like KCN and OsO4 were not used.

SCHEME 1: Synthesis of the Cross Linker Aminodiol **5**

Abbreviations: DIAD = diisopropyl azodicarboxylate; Ph = phenyl; THF = tetrahydrofuran; r.t. = room temperature; $h = hour(s)$; conc. = concentrated; $°C = degree(s)$; Celcius; CBz = benzyloxycarbonyl; $DMAP = 4$ -dimethylaminopyridine; aq. = aqueous

The (4*R*)-4-aminopentane-1,2-diol **5** was synthesised in 6 steps starting from commercially available (*S*)-pent-4-en-2-ol **1** with an overall yield of 34%. The synthesis commenced by stereospecific conversion of the enantiomerically pure alcohol **1** to the corresponding *N*-

phthalimide derivative 2 by reaction with phthalimide *via* a Mitsunobu reaction^{26,27} using PPh₃ and DIAD reagents in anhydrous THF as a solvent in 85% yield. The *N*-phthalimide **2** was deprotected²⁶ to the corresponding (R) -amine under reductive conditions using NaBH₄ in 2propanol and subsequent treatment with conc. HCl at 80 °C. The free amine was protected²⁶ with Cbz-Cl using K_2CO_3 as a base to afford the corresponding *N*-Cbz protected amine 3 in an overall yield of 70% in three steps. The alkene of 3 was subsequently oxidised²⁸ using NaIO₄, RuCl₃ (0.25 mol%) and CeCl₃·7H₂O (10 mol%) as a Lewis acid in a mixture of CH₃CN / EtOAc / H₂O (3:3:2) at 0 °C to obtain the corresponding diol 4 in 59% yield as a ~1:1 mixture of inseparable epimers. Deprotection of the *N*-Cbz group was achieved by hydrogenolysis of the diol 4 using H_2 gas and 10% Pd/C in CH₃OH to obtain the desired amino-1,2-diol 5 as a ~1:1 mixture of epimers in 96% yield after subsequent purification step. The product **5** was purified by Grace Reveleris® X2 system using *n*-Hexane/EtOH (gradient, using ELS detector) on Reveleris® amino cartridge and isolated as a clear colourless oil. This was stored in a freezer at -20 $\rm{°C}$ for several months without any decomposition.

 (R) -2-(Pent-4-en-2-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione,²⁶ **2** and benzyl *N*- $[(2R)$ -pent-4-en-2yl]carbamate,²⁶ **3** are known compounds from the literature,²⁶ while benzyl $[(2R)-4,5$ dihydroxypentan-2-yl]carbamate, **4** and (4*R*)-4-aminopentane-1,2-diol, **5** are novel compounds reported here.

(*R*)-2-(Pent-4-en-2-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione**, 2**

(*R*)-2-(Pent-4-en-2-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione, **2** was synthesised following a slightly modified protocol for Mitsunobu reaction described in the literature^{26,27}. An oven-dried 500 mL 3necked round-bottomed flask with a magnetic stirring bar was dried *in vacuo* using a heat gun and purged with argon. This procedure was repeated 3 times and cooled to r.t. under an argon atmosphere. The flask was then charged with (*S*)-pent-4-en-2-ol **1** (4.307 g, 50.0 mmol, 1.0

eq.), phthalimide (8.092 g, 55.0 mmol, 1.1 eq.) and PPh₃ (14.430g, 55.0 mmol, 1.1 eq.) and dissolved in dry THF (200 mL) under an argon atmosphere. The contents were cooled to $0 °C$ and stirred vigorously. DIAD (12.638 g, 62.5 mmol, 1.25 eq.) was added dropwise to the mixture for a period of 10 min at $0 °C$ under an argon atmosphere. The contents were warmed to r.t. for 30 min and then stirred for a further period of 2 h at r.t. (total time $= 2.5$ h). The contents were then evaporated to dryness and dissolved in EtOAc (400 mL) and sequentially washed with aqueous NaOH solution (0.5 M, 3×150 mL), aqueous HCl (1 M, 150 mL) and saturated brine solution (3×400 mL). The organic phase was then separated, dried over anhydrous Na2SO4, filtered and evaporated to dryness. The crude material was then subjected to flash chromatography on $SiO₂$ [gradient; eluant: EtOAc/*n*-hexane = 2:98 to 5:95] to obtain the desired (R) -2-(pent-4-en-2-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione,² **2** as a colourless oil $(9.190 \text{ g}, 85\%);$ $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -19.0^{\circ}$ (*c* 1.0, CHCl₃); R_f = 0.48 (SiO₂ plate, EtOAc/*n*-hexane = 1:9); IR (neat) v_{max} 3078, 2977, 2938, 1772, 1701, 1642, 1467, 1393, 1376, 1359, 1332, 1248, 1173, 1136, 1081, 1058, 1015, 994, 916, 895, 872, 793, 717 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400.13 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.49 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 2.51 (ddd, *J* = 14.1, 7.8, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.80 (dddd, *J* = 14.1, 8.4, 7.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (ddq, *J* = 8.4, 7.8, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 4.95 (app. d, *J* = 10.1 Hz, 1H), 5.05 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 5.71 (dddd, *J* = 16.8, 10.1, 7.8, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (dd, J = 5.4, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (dd, *J* = 5.4, 3.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.61 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 18.5 (CH₃), 38.3 (CH₂), 47.1 (CH), 117.8 (CH2), 123.2 (CH), 132.1 (C), 133.9 (CH), 134.9 (CH), 168.6 (C); MS (ESI+) *m/z*(rel intensity) 238 [(M+Na)+, 100%], 216 [(M+H)+, 62], 205 (19), 201 (4); HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calc'd for $C_{13}H_{14}NO_2$ [M+H]⁺: 216.1019, found 216.1016 (Δ = -1.32 ppm). The structure of the product **2** was further characterised by 2D [1H, 1H] COSY, 2D [1H, 13C] HSQC, 2D [1H, 13C] HMBC NMR spectroscopic experiments.

Benzyl *N*‐[(2*R*)‐pent‐4‐en‐2‐yl]carbamate, **3**

Benzyl *N*-[(2*R*)-pent-4-en-2-yl]carbamate, 3 was synthesised in 3 steps starting from the phthalimide **2** following a slightly modified protocol described in the literature by Gebauer *et*

al26. (*R*)-2-(Pent-4-en-2-yl)isoindoline-1,3-dione, **2** (4.951 g, 23.0 mmol, 1.0 eq.) was dissolved in isopropanol (170 mL) and $H_2O(30 \text{ mL})$. NaB $H_4(8.701 \text{ g}, 230.0 \text{ mmol}, 10.0 \text{ eq.})$ was added portion wise $(8 \times 1.088 \text{ g})$ to the solution for every 5 min $(5 \times 8 = 40 \text{ min total})$ and the contents were stirred at r.t. overnight for 16 h. A white precipitate appeared in the reaction mixture and the reaction mixture was quenched by addition of conc. HCl (15.0 mL), stirred at r.t. for 10 min, then heated to 80 $\mathrm{^{\circ}C}$ for 2 h and then cooled to r.t. A thick white precipitate was observed and the mixture was then neutralised with K_2CO_3 to pH 8.0, after which the mixture was cooled to 0° C and benzyl chloroformate (5.885 g, 34.5 mmol, 1.5 eq.) was added dropwise for a period of 15 min. The mixture was stirred at $0 °C$ and DMAP (0.030 mg, 0.246 mmol, 0.0107 eq.) was added to it. The contents were then stirred at r.t. under an argon atmosphere and the progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC analysis $(SiO₂$ plate, EtOAc/*n*-hexane = 3:17). After 2.5 h, the reaction was judged to be complete and the reaction mixture was then quenched by addition of saturated brine solution (200 mL), extracted with Et₂O (3×200 mL). The aqueous phase was further extracted with EtOAc (50 mL). The combine organic extracts were washed with saturated brine solution $(3 \times 500 \text{ mL})$, dried over anhydrous Na2SO4, evaporated to dryness using a rotatory evaporator to obtain a colourless oil. This was purified by flash chromatography on $SiO₂$ [gradient; eluant: EtOAc/*n*-hexane = 1:19 \rightarrow 1:9 \rightarrow 3:17 \rightarrow 1:4] to obtain the desired product benzyl *N*-[(2*R*)-pent-4-en-2yl]carbamate,²⁶ 3 as a colourless oil (3.518 g, 70%) which crystallised upon freezing on long storage at -20 °C in freezer; $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +13.1^{\circ}$ (*c* 1.0, CHCl₃); R_f = 0.48 (SiO₂ plate, EtOAc/*n*hexane = 1:9); ¹H NMR (400.13 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.16 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H), 2.22 (m, 2H), 3.81 (tq, *J* = 6.5, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 4.64 (broad s, 1H), 5.02-5.19 (2 × m, 4H), 5.77 (ddt, *J* = 16.9, 10.2, 7.2, 1H), 7.28-7.45 (broad m, 5H); ¹³C NMR (100.61 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 20.6 (CH₃), 41.2 (CH₂), 46.6 (CH), 66.6 (CH₂), 118.1 (CH₂), 128.2 (2 × CH), 128.6 (CH), 134.3 (CH), 136.8 (C), 155.8 (C); IR (CH2Cl2) νmax 3324, 3068, 3033, 2972, 1693, 1642, 1530, 1454, 1405, 1376, 1334, 1280, 1250, 1221, 1100, 1058, 1028, 994, 915, 776 cm-1 ; MS (ESI+) *m/z* (rel intensity) 242 $[(M+Na)^{+}, 40\%]$, 220 $[(M+H)^{+}, 100]$, 176 (3), 159 (12), 117 (2), 88 (5); HRMS (ESI+) m/z calc'd for C₁₃H₁₈NO₂ [M+H]⁺: 220.1332, found 220.1327 (Δ = -2.25 ppm). The structure of the product **3** was further characterised by 2D [1H, 1H] COSY, 2D [1H, 13C] HSQC, 2D [1H, 13C] HMBC NMR spectroscopic experiments.

Benzyl [(2*R*)-4,5-dihydroxypentan-2-yl]carbamate, **4**

Benzyl $[(2R)-4,5-dihydroxypentan-2-y]$ carbamate, 4 was prepared by ruthenium tetraoxide (generated *in situ* using RuCl3/NaIO4/CeCl3**·**7H2O) mediated oxidation of benzyl *N*‐[(2*R*)‐ pent‐4‐en‐2‐yl]carbamate, **3** following a general procedure described in the literature by Tiwari²⁸ *et al.* A mixture of NaIO₄ (1.749 g, 8.175 mmol, 1.5 eq.) and CeCl₃·7H₂O (0.203 g, 0.545 mmol, 0.1 eq.) in $H₂O$ (11 mL) was stirred at r.t. for 10 min in a 100 mL round-bottomed flask fitted with a magnetic stirring bar. The off-white mixture was cooled to 0° C and stirred for 4-5 min, followed by sequential addition of EtOAc (16 mL) , CH₃CN (33 mL) and RuCl₃ (0.0283 g, 0.1363 mmol, 0.025 eq.) at 0 °C. The hetereogeneous mixture was then stirred for 2 min and a solution of the benzyl *N*‐[(2*R*)‐pent‐4‐en‐2‐yl]carbamate, **3** (1.195 g, 5.45 mmol, 1.0 eq.) in EtOAc (16 mL) was added in one shot to this mixture. The contents were stirred at 0 °C and progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC analysis (SiO₂; Eluant: EtOAc/*n*hexane = $3:17$ and also using Eluant: EtOAc = 100%). After 22 min, the reaction mixture turned more purple brown from black and was stopped by diluting the mixture using saturated Na₂S₂O₃ solution (200 mL) on a separating funnel and addition of additional EtOAc (150 mL). The mixture was shaken vigorously in the separating funnel and the aqueous layer was further extracted with EtOAc $(2 \times 75 \text{ mL})$. The combined organic layers were washed sequentially with saturated aqueous Na₂S₂O₃ solution (200 mL), saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (2 \times 200 mL) and finally with saturated brine solution (200 mL). The organic layer was separated, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and evaporated to dryness to obtain a colourless clear oil. The crude material was subjected to flash chromatography on SiO2 [gradient; Eluant: EtOAc/*n*hexane = $3:1$ to EtOAc = 100%) to obtain the desired product, *benzyl* $(2R)-4.5$ *dihydroxypentan-2-yl]carbamate*, **4** as a colourless oil (0.817 g, 59%), which was found to be \sim 1:1 inseparable mixture of epimers and rotamers as observed in ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopic analysis; R_f = 0.35 and 0.41 (for 2 epimers); ¹H NMR (400.13 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (Mixture of epimers) 1.18 and 1.20 ($2 \times d$, $J = 7.0$, 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.24-1.38 and 1.40-1.76 ($2 \times$ m, 2H), 2.24 and 2.82 (2 \times broad s, 1H), 3.08 and 3.40 (2 \times broad s, 1H), 3.42-3.65 (2 \times m, 2H), 3.70-3.80 ($2 \times m$, 1H), 3.81-3.90 and 3.91-4.06 ($2 \times m$, 1H), 4.23 and 4.95 ($2 \times app$. d, *J* $= 2.6$ and 8.3 Hz, 1H), 5.07 and 5.10 (2 \times app. d, $J = 11.8$ and 12.1 Hz, 2H), 7.27-7.44 (broad m, 5H); ¹³C NMR (100.61 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (Mixture of epimers) 21.6 (2 × CH₃), 40.3 (CH₂), 41.2 (CH₂), 44.1 (CH), 45.4 (CH), 66.6 (CH₂), 66.8 (CH₂), 67.2 (2 × CH₂), 68.8 (CH), 70.3 (CH), 128.2 (CH), 128.2 (2 × CH), 128.4 (CH), 128.6 (CH), 128.7 (CH), 136.3 (C), 136.6 (C), 156.3 (C), 157.3 (C); IR (CH₂Cl₂) v_{max} 3401, 3325, 2970, 2933, 1690, 1516, 1455, 1411, 1377, 1339, 1275, 1248, 1088, 1055, 1020, 871, 843, 764, 757 cm-1 ; MS (ESI+) *m/z* (rel intensity) 276 [(M+Na)⁺, 100], 254 [(M+H)⁺, 12], 210 (14); HRMS (ESI+) *m/z* calc'd for C₁₃H₁₉NO₄²³Na $[M+Na]^+$: 276.1206, found 276.1197 (Δ = -3.51 ppm) and m/z calc'd for C₁₃H₂₀NO₄ [M+H]⁺ : 254.1387, found 254.1384 (Δ = -1.28 ppm). The structure of the diol 4 was further characterised by 2D [1H, 1H] COSY, 2D [1H, 13C] HSQC, 2D [1H, 13C] HMBC NMR spectroscopic experiments.

(4*R*)-4-Aminopentane-1,2-diol, **5**

An oven-dried 100 ml round-bottomed flask with a magnetic stirring bar was fitted with a Quickfit® 3-way stopcock adapter and dried *in vacuo* using a heat gun and purged with nitrogen gas. This procedure was repeated thrice. The flask was cooled to r.t. and was charged with palladium on activated carbon (10% Pd, 0.500 g) under a nitrogen atmosphere and a solution of benzyl [(2*R*)-4,5-dihydroxypentan-2-yl]carbamate, **4** (0.778 g, 3.0715 mmol) dissolved in CH3OH (25 mL) was added to it. The atmosphere inside the flask was evacuated using a diaphragm pump and purged with hydrogen gas (H2 balloon) using the 3-way stopcock and this procedure was repeated thrice. The heterogenous mixture was then stirred under a hydrogen atmosphere $(H_2 \text{ balloon})$ at r.t. and the progress of the reaction was monitored for the disappearance of the starting material 4 by TLC analysis (SiO₂ plate; Eluant:100% EtOAc) and LC-MS analysis (C18 reverse phase column, $H₂O-CH₃CN$ as mobile phase, gradient). After 6 h, the reaction was judged to be complete and reaction mixture was filtered through Celite® 503 and washed with copious amount of CH₃OH (3×25 mL) and EtOAc (2×25 mL). The combined filtrate was evaporated to dryness to obtain *(4R)-4-aminopentane-1,2-diol*, **5** as a clear colourless oil (0.366 g, quant. yield) which was observed to be a \sim 1:1 mixture of epimers as observed from its ${}^{1}H$ and ${}^{13}C$ NMR spectroscopic analysis. This was further purified and desalted on a Reveleris® Amino column using a Grace Reveleris® X2 MPLC system (gradient; using ELS detector; eluant: 100% *n*-hexane to *n*-hexane / EtOAc = 1:1; the product was isolated between *n*-hexane / EtOAc = 4:1 \rightarrow 7:3) to afford *(4R)-4-aminopentane-1,2-diol*, **5** as a clear colour oil (0.353 g, 96% yield after purification). The aminodiol product **5** was stored in a freezer at -20 °C; ¹H NMR (400.13 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (Mixture of epimers) 1.12 and 1.14 (2 \times d, $J = 3.0$ and 3.1 Hz, 3H), 1.23-1.40 and 1.44-1.65 (2 × m, 2H), 3.00-3.11 and 3.18-3.24 (2 × m, 1H), 3.19-3.35 (broad s, 4H), 3.36-3.48 and 3.49-3.58 (2 × m, 2H), 3.80-3.88 and 3.89-3.96 (2 \times m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100.61 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (Mixture of epimers) 24.2 (CH₃), 27.0 (CH₃), 40.4 (CH2), 40.7 (CH2), 44.4 (CH), 47.3 (CH), 66.8 (CH2), 66.9 (CH2), 69.8 (CH), 72.5 (CH); IR (CH2Cl2) νmax 3352, 3284, 2947, 2924, 2904, 2869, 1608, 1457, 1380, 1349, 1337, 1266, 1153, 1096, 1074, 1031, 988, 935, 853, 824, 732, 702 cm-1 ; MS (ESI+) *m/z* (rel intensity) 161 $[(M+CH_3CN)+H^2, 7]$, 120 $[(M+H)^+, 100]$, 102 (3); HRMS (ESI +) m/z calc'd for C₅H₁₄NO₂ $[M+H]^{+}$: 120.1019, found 120.1019 (Δ = -0.05 ppm). The structure of the aminodiol 5 was further characterised by 2D [1H, 1H] COSY, 2D [1H, 13C] HSQC, 2D [1H, 13C] HMBC NMR spectroscopic experiments.

Synthesis of *R-*methyl deoxypropanoguanine containing deoxyoligonucleotides

Although acetaldehyde forms both *R-* and *S-* stereoisomers of deoxypropanoguanine, the *R*form is more stereochemically favourable for crosslink formation in a 5´-CpG-3´ on which we based this study²⁹. A custom oligonucleotide, 5'-[phosphoryl]-GCACGAAAGAAGAGC-2FdI-GAAG was synthesized by Eurogentec at 1 µmol scale, using 5'-Dimethoxytrityl-2 fluoro-O6-p-nitrophenylethyl-2'-deoxyInosine,3'-[(2-cyanoethyl)-(*N*,*N*-diisopropyl)] phosphoramidite and shipped on support. Support (20 mg, ca. 0.5 µmol oligo) containing 2FdIno, **6** was incubated with 12 mg (4*R*)-4-aminopentane-1,2-diol **5** in 280 µl DMSO with 140 µl TEA and incubated with agitation at rt overnight to give compound **7**. The support was washed three times with DMSO (200 μ l) and three times with CH₃CN (400 μ l), followed by deprotection of the O6-p-nitrophenylethyl group with 1 M DBU dissolved in CH_3CN (300 µl) at rt for 1 h, to give compound **8**. The support was washed three times with CH3CN, dried with N_2 and treated with aq. 28% NH₄OH at 55 °C for 6 h to remove remaining protecting groups and elute the oligonucleotide from the support. The oligonucleotide was freeze-dried (Scanvac) and reactants separated by HPLC (Thermo Accela) on a AdvanceBio Oligonucleotide, 4.6 x

150 mm, 2.7 µm (Agilent) in 15 mM TEA/ 400 mM HFIP, (pH 7.0) at 0.5 ml min-1 at 60˚C, over 30 min, effecting a 15 – 27.5% MeOH gradient; **8** eluted at 19.2 min and **6** at 20.5 min. Fractions containing **8** were lyophilized and reacted with 50 mM NaIO4 for 1 h at rt, and the product desalted over an Oligo R3 column (Thermo Scientific). The identity of **9** was confirmed by MALDI and/or LC-MS (calc'd mass: 6408.18 , found $6409.0 \ (\pm 50.02\%$ error).

*R-*methyl deoxypropanoguanine crosslinking and purification

Unmodified oligonucleotides were supplied HPLC purified and verified by LC-MS (Integrated DNA Technologies, BVBA). Either deoxyguanine containing (5'-[phosphoryl]- CTTTCTTCTC-dG-CCTTCTCCC) or deoxyinosine (5'-[phosphoryl]-CTTTCTTCTC-dI-CCTTCTCCC) oligonucleotides were mixed at 1:1 molar ratio with the PdG containing oligo (5'-[phosphoryl]-GCACGAAAGAAGAGC-PdG-GAAG) in PBS, annealed (85˚C for 5 min, ramped to 25 °C, at - 0.1° C s⁻¹) and incubated at 37°C for 7-14 d to allow crosslink formation. The reaction progression was analysed by denaturing PAGE stained with Sybr Gold (Thermo Scientific). Final PdG-dG crosslink yields were approx. 50%. Crosslinks were purified by denaturing PAGE and/or HPLC.

For PAGE purification, bands were stained briefly with Sybr Gold, visualized by transillumination at 450 nm (Clare Chemical Research) and excised. DNA was electroeluted from the gel (Elutrap, Whatman), concentrated by ethanol precipitation and quantified by Nanodrop (260 nm).

HPLC purification of the crosslink followed the same conditions detailed above, crosslinked oligonucleotides eluted between $25.8 - 26.2$ min, and were confirmed by denaturing PAGE analysis. Fractions containing crosslinked DNA were evaporated to dryness and reconstituted in 1 x PBS.

Crosslink Stability Assay

Crosslinked DNA was back-filled with exo-deficient Klenow (New England Biolabs) to incorporate a single 32P-CTP radiolabel. Labelled oligos were purified by R3 Oligo resin and quantified by scintillation counting (Perkin Elmer). Labelled oligos were incubated in 1 x PBS and after the indicated temperature and time combinations samples were removed, mixed with formamide loading buffer and resolved by formamide-urea denaturing PAGE. Dried gels were exposed on phosphorimager 24-48 h and visualized using an Amersham Typhoon Biomolecular Imager (GE Healthcare). Crosslink stability was calculated from band densitometry using Fiji software³⁰ and the results were plotted using Prism 7 (Graphpad Software) from three independent experiments.

Preparation of plasmid substrates

The plasmids containing site-specific interstrand crosslinks were prepared as described $31,17$. Briefly, duplexes containing ICLs derived from cisplatin, psoralen or acetaldehyde were ligated into a vector linearized with Bbs1. After ligation, the plasmid was purified using a cesium chloride gradient. To ligate the psoralen duplex, the pSVRLuc backbone was modified by site-directed mutagenesis to substitute an adenine to guanine present on one of the Bbs1 5' overhangs.

The plasmids containing the *lacO* sequence were prepared by ligating the crosslinked oligos duplexes into pSVR*lacO* vector (gift from Johannes Walter,¹⁷). To make pICL-AAreverse*lacO*, the pSVR*lacO* was first digested with Not1 and a new insert containing Bbs1 overhangs in reversed position was inserted. This plasmid was used to insert the crosslinked duplexes. To make pPdG, ligation of a duplex containing a PdG into a backbone linearized by Bbs1 was followed by cesium gradient purification, as described above.

Xenopus **repair assay**

All animal procedures and experiments were performed in accordance with national animal welfare laws and were reviewed by the Animal Ethics Committee of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW). All animal experiments were conducted under a project license granted by the Central Committee Animal Experimentation (CCD) of the Dutch government and approved by the Hubrecht Institute Animal Welfare Body (IvD), with project license number AVD80100201711044. Sample sizes were chosen based on previous experience, randomization and blinding are not relevant to this study.

Xenopus egg Extracts and DNA Replication

Xenopus laevis female frogs (aged >2 years) were purchased from Nasco and used as a source of eggs. Preparation of *Xenopus* egg extracts and DNA replication were performed as previously described^{32,33}. For DNA replication, plasmids were incubated in a high-speed supernatant extract (HSS) at a final concentration of 7.5 ng μ l⁻¹ for 20 min at room temperature

to license the DNA. Two volumes of nucleoplasmic extract (NPE) were added to start DNA replication. For nascent strand labeling, HSS was supplemented with $32P-a-dCTPs$. Where indicated, an unrelated non-damaged control plasmid (pQuant) was added at concentrations up to 0.8 ng ul⁻¹, to be used as internal control for quantifications. To block CMG unloading, $p97$ inhibitor (NMS-873, Sigma)³⁴ was added to NPE at a final concentration of up to 40 μ M. To inhibit DNA replication recombinant Geminin was added to HSS at 300 nM. For the reactions with the pICL-*lacO* plasmids, the plasmids were incubated prior to the start of replication with purified biotinylated LacR protein at a final concentration of 17 µM for 45 minutes at room temperature35. For CMG uncoupling experiments, aphidicolin (Sigma) was added to the replication mix 5 minutes after the start of replication, at a final concentration of 12µM.

For analysis of undigested DNA replication products, replication reactions were stopped by adding five volumes of replication stop solution I (Stop I: 80 mM Tris pH 8, 5% SDS, 0.13% phosphoric acid, 10% Ficoll, 8 mM EDTA, 0.1% bromophenol blue). The samples were treated with proteinase K (1.5 μ g μ ¹) for 40 min at 37°C and resolved by 0.8% native agarose gel electrophoresis. The gel was dried and visualized by autoradiography.

For extraction of DNA from replication reactions, aliquots of the reaction were stopped with 10 volumes of replication stop solution II (Stop II: 50 mM Tris pH 7.5, 0.5% SDS, 10 mM EDTA pH 8). Samples were then treated with RNase $(0.13 \mu g \mu l^{-1}$ final concentration) for 30 min at 37°C, followed by Proteinase K (0.5 μ g μ ¹) treatment for 1 h at 37 °C or overnight at room temperature. DNA was phenol/chloroform extracted, ethanol precipitated with glycogen (0.3 μ g μ ⁻¹), and resuspended in 10 mM Tris pH 7.5 in a volume equal to the reaction sample taken.

Antibodies and Immunodepletions

Antibodies against *xlFANCD2*, *xlREV1*, *xlREV7* were previously described^{12,14,19}. The *xl*NEIL3 antibody was raised against a C-terminal peptide of *Xenopus laevis* NEIL3 and affinity purified (New England peptide). FANCD2 and REV7 depletions were carried out as described^{12,19}. To rescue the FANCD2 depletion 260 nM of recombinant FANCI-FANCD2 was added to NPE. For depletion of NEIL3, one volume of protein A Sepharose Fast Flow beads (GE Healthcare) was incubated with 2 volumes of *xl*NEIL3 affinity purified antibody (1 mg ml⁻¹) overnight at 4°C. For depletion from NPE, three rounds were performed in which 1

volume of antibody-bound PAS beads was incubated with 4.5 volumes of extract for 20 min at room temperature. HSS was depleted using the same volumes but for 2 rounds. Recombinant NEIL3 was added to NPE at 150 nM final concentration. For REV1 depletion, 1 volume of Dynabeads™ Protein A beads (Thermo Fisher Scientific) was pre-incubated with 0.5 volumes of antibody for 30 minutes at room temperature. To deplete NPE, 1 volume of antibody-bound beads was incubate with 1.5 volume of extract for 30 minutes at RT for two rounds. HSS was depleted with the same volume of beads in one round.

Protein purification

Recombinant *xlFANCI-FANCD2* complex was prepared as previously described¹². Biotinylated LacR protein was prepared as described³⁵.

NotI repair assay

Plasmids were replicated in *Xenopus* egg extract in absence of 32P-α-dCTPs and intermediates were purified as described above. Replication reactions were supplemented with a modified pQuant plasmid (pQuant 28nt) that produces a 28 nt fragment upon NotI digestion, which was used as internal control for quantification. Repair intermediates were digested with NotI and 3' labeled by fill-in of the 5'-overhangs with Sequenase DNA polymerase (USB) in the presence of 32P-α-dCTPs and non-labeled dGTP. One volume of denaturing PAGE Gel Loading Buffer II (Invitrogen[™]) was added, samples were denatured by incubation at 98 °C for 3 minutes, and the DNA fragments were separated by 20% Urea PAGE, products were visualized by autoradiography and quantified using ImageQuant software (GE Healthcare). NotI digested and labeled products that still contain an ICL are 88 nt in size while noncrosslinked molecules are 44 nt. The temporal reduction of the 88 nt product is caused by ongoing ICL unhooking but also by replication fork stalling because this results in a DNA structure that is partially single stranded and therefore not digested by NotI.

The temporal increase of the uncrosslinked 44 nt product was used as a readout for ongoing ICL repair because these are the products of TLS or HR. First, the intensity of pQuant 28 nt fragment was used to normalize the intensity of the 44 nt products, to make these products independent of amplification by replication/repair and to correct for extraction/loading variations. Then, the normalized linear 44 nt products were expressed as percentage of the total of 88 and 44 nt fragments at time point zero, which represents the percentage of the input DNA that is accumulating over time in the 44 nt band. Finally, the percentage of non-crosslinked background was subtracted to yield the percentage of molecules that have undergone TLS or HR during repair. Of note, 2 or 3 bands can be seen at the height of the 44 nt fragment in some gels. First, the sequence difference between the bottom and top strand causes a slight difference in mobility. Second, upon ICL repair by the FA pathway the unhooked adduct will cause a shift in size (see also **Extended Data Figure 5k**).

Nascent strand analysis

Nascent strand analysis was performed as previously described¹⁴. In brief, DNA repair products were digested either with AflIII, with AflIII or EcoRI, or with AflIII and BamHI (New England Biolabs). After addition of one volume of denaturing PAGE Gel Loading Buffer II (Invitrogen™), the samples were separated on a 7% polyacrylamide sequencing gel, and visualized by autoradiography. The sequencing gel ladder was produced using the Thermo Sequenase Cycle Sequencing Kit (USB) and primer S (CATGTTTTACTAGCCAGATTTTTCCTCCTCTCCTG).

APE1 glycosylase assay

Plasmids were replicated in presence of pQuant. After extraction of the DNA repair intermediates, samples were digested with HincII (New England Biolabs) only and with HincII in combination with APE1 (New England Biolabs). The digested products were separated on a 0.8% native agarose gel and visualized by autoradiography. Quantification was done using Image Quant (GE Healthcare). The arm fragments were first normalized against pQuant and the highest value was set to 1.

HincII incision assay

ICL-containing plasmids were replicated in the presence of pQuant. Repair intermediates were extracted and digested with HincII. Fragments were separated on a 0.8% native agarose gel and visualized by autoradiography. Quantification was performed using ImageQuant software (GE Healthcare). The intensity of the HincII arm fragments was first normalized to pQuant, the highest value in the experiment was set to 1 and the data was plotted against time.

Strand-specific Southern blot assay

Strand-specific Southern blot was performed as described previously^{14,17}. Briefly, purified replication intermediates were digested with AflIII and AseI, 0.5 volume of denaturing PAGE Gel Loading Buffer II (Invitrogen™) was added, and the DNA fragments were separated on a 7% denaturing polyacrylamide sequencing gel. The DNA was transferred to a Hybond-N+ membrane (Amersham) overnight at 4°C. The membrane was rinsed once with 2X SSC buffer and UV-irradiated to crosslink the DNA to the membrane. The membrane was pre-hybridized with 12 ml of Ultrahyb buffer (Ambion) for 3 h at 42°C and probed overnight at 42°C. The membrane was then washed three times at 42°C in pre-warmed washing buffer (0.5X SCC, 0.25% SDS), dried and exposed to a phosphorimager screen. To generate the probes pCon was amplified by PCR using the primers XL-1 (CCTGCTGTCCATTCCTTATTCC) and XL-3 (GCATTGGTTCTGCACTTCCGC). The amplicon was purified and used as template for a primer extension reaction in the presence of ^{32}P -α-dCTPs to generate the probes¹⁴. Primer S was used for the probe that detects the bottom strand and primer XL-3 for the top strand.

Primer extension assay

Primer extension assay was performed as previously described¹⁹. In brief, late ICL repair products were isolated and purified as described above. Unreplicated pControl and pPdG were used as controls. Samples were digested with AflIII and BamHI, and the DNA fragments were used as template for primer extension. Primers (Forward: CTCGAGCGGAAGTGCAGAAC, Reverse: AATACGCAAACCGCCTCTCC) were first labelled radioactively with PNK at the $5'$ end with $32P-\gamma$ -ATP and were subsequently annealed to DNA in a thermocycler. Each reaction contained only one primer (either forward or reverse). The primers were then extended using the Phusion High-Fidelity DNA polymerase (NEB) for one round. The resulting DNA fragments were first concentrated by ethanol precipitation (see above) and then separated on a 20% denaturing PAGE gel and visualized by autoradiography.

Sequencing analysis of DNA repair products

Sequencing of the DNA repair products was performed using a similar method as described previously19. Briefly, plasmids were replicated in *Xenopus* egg extract and late replication/repair intermediates (240 min for the crosslinked plasmids, 120 min for pCon and pPdG) were isolated. The DNA was amplified by PCR using the Phusion High-Fidelity DNA Polymerase (New England Biolabs) for 15 cycles using primers with unique barcodes. For experiment 1 we used forward primer: NNNNNN-barcode-AGAACCAATGCATGCGGC and reverse primer: NNNNNNATTCATTAATGCAGCGGATCG, where N represents random nucleotides and the barcode is composed of 3 nucleotides. For experiment 2 we used forward primer: NNNNNN-barcode-CTCGAGCGGAAGTGCAGAAC and reverse primer: NNNNNN-barcode-AATACGCAAACCGCCTCTCC, the barcode was composed of 6 nucleotides. This generated a product of 96 nt for experiment 1 presented in the main figures, and 154 nt for experiment 2 in the supplement, with the lesion site roughly in the middle (Extended Data Item 8a). In addition to the replicated DNA samples, we also used 75 ng unreplicated pICL-Pt, pICL-AA and pPdG as template in independent PCR reactions. For each sample two independent PCRs were performed to create technical replicates. The products were separated by TBE PAGE and visualized by Sybr Gold (Thermo Fisher Scientific) staining. For experiment 1 we excised the 96 nt fragment including products up to \sim 10 nt smaller, for experiment 2 we excised the 154 nt band. Gel slices were broken into small pieces and incubated in elution buffer (10 mM Tris pH 8.0, 1 mM EDTA pH 8.0, 300 mM NaCl) overnight at room temperature under agitation. The DNA was recovered using a Spin-X column (0.45 μM, Sigma) and further purified using paramagnetic beads (CleanPCR kit, CleanNA). The DNA was ethanol-precipitated in presence of 0.15 mg $ml⁻¹$ glycogen and 0.3 M sodium acetate and resuspended in 10 mM Tris pH 8.0. Illumina TruSeq adapters were ligated to the DNA according to the manufacturer's instructions (Illumina), and the DNA was sequenced using paired end 75 bp NextSeq sequencing for dataset 1, and paired end 150 bp NextSeq sequencing for dataset 2 (Utrecht sequencing facility).

Demultiplexing

Data from experiment 1 was demultiplexed on 3 nt barcodes at the 5'-ends, downstream of a 6 nt random nucleotide segment of the first mate (R1) of read pairs, allowing no mismatches. The 3 nt barcodes were extended on the 3'-end with 9 nt of the forward PCR primer ("AGAACCAAT") to avoid reverse complement reads demultiplexing as forward reads. Reads not demultiplexed as forward reads were then demultiplexed on the second mate (R2) of read pairs, again allowing no mismatches, and again with the 3 nt barcodes which were extended with 9 nt of the forward PCR primer.

Data from experiment 2 was demultiplexed on 6 nt barcodes prefixed at the 5'-ends of the first mate (R1) of read pairs, allowing at most 1 mismatch (no indels). Barcodes were designed such that 1 mismatch could be tolerated without introducing ambiguity. For dataset 2, R2 of reads demultiplexed with forward primers and R1 of reads demultiplexed with reverse primers was taken the reverse complement of (using fastx reverse complement from FASTX toolkit v0.0.14). For dataset 1, R2 of demultiplexed reads were trimmed by 6 nt. (using fastx_trimmer from FASTX toolkit v0.0.14) and then taken the reverse complement of. To ensure R1 and R2 contained the same segment of the amplicon (which is larger than the read lengths in dataset 1) and did not dovetail, R1 was trimmed at the 5'-end using "ATGCGGCCGC" and allowing at most 1 mismatch and no indels, using cutadapt $(v1.9.1^{36})$ and at the 3'-end using "GCGCGGCCGCG", again allowing at most 1 mismatch and no indels. Similarly, R2 reads were trimmed using "GCCGCGAAG" at the 5'-end and "GCATTAA" at the 3'-end. To make the data of dataset 1 comparable to dataset 2, R1 reads of dataset 1 were then prefixed with "CTCGAGCGGAAGTGCAGAACCAATGCATGCGGCCGC" and suffixed with "GCGCGGCCGCGATCCGCTGCATTAATGAATCGGCCAACGCGCGGGGAGAGGCG GTTTGCGTATT", and R2 reads were prefixed with "CTCGAGCGGAAGTGCAGAACCAATGCATGCGGCCGCGAAG" and suffixed with "GCATTAATGAATCGGCCAACGCGCGGGGAGAGGCGGTTTGCGTATT", reconstituting the amplicon of dataset 2.

Alignment to amplicon

Reads were mapped to the amplicon sequence of experiment 2 (Extended Data Item 8a) using blastn (from the BLAST suite, $v2.4.0+$, with parameters -dust no -parse_deflines -max_hsps 1 -num_alignments 1 -word_size 7 -evalue 100.0 -outfmt "6 qseqid sstart send qstart qend btop" -strand plus). The blast result generated a table with one line per read, for both the R1 and R2 read mates. From these tables, the Blast trace-back operations (BTOP) string was parsed to extract information about mismatches in the read relative to the amplicon sequence. These tables were further processed using python software. This software filters out read pairs where R1 and R2 do not agree, or do not fully contain the 130 nt amplicon. This software then summarized the BLAST tables into occurrences of each BLAST BTOP, for each sample. Read numbers for total reads, pair-matched reads, and reads with indels and insertions are listed in Extended Data Item 8b and c.

Post-processing of mutation count tables

Technical replicates (such as sequencing lanes and PCR replicates) were merged by summation. Because the reads of dataset 1 and dataset 2 are of different length, dataset 1 was only informative on mutations in the amplicon interval [40, 76) (0-based, half-open interval). Therefore, normalization was done using only mutations that were observed in both datasets (with at least 100 reads). Observed mutation (BTOP) counts were normalized by

$$
N_{i,j} = \frac{C_{i,j} + \phi}{\sum_{i \in W} C_{i,j} + \phi|W|}
$$

where $C_{i,j}$ is the count of mutation *i* in sample *j*, *W* is the set of mutations that meet the cutoff criterion in both datasets, ϕ is a pseudocount (set to 1 in further analyses) and $N_{i,j}$ is the normalized count of mutation i in sample j .

Cellular Survival Assays

Cell lines

Wild-type and *NEIL3*– HAP1 near-haploid human cells were purchased from Horizon Discovery and cultured at 37˚C and 5% CO2 in IMDM supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum and penicillin/streptomycin. *NEIL3*– cells were confirmed by immunoblotting against NEIL3. For targeting of *FANCL*, WT and *NEIL3*– cells were transfected using Turbofectin 8.0 (Origene) and the following plasmids: pX461 (Cas9 nickase) (Addgene), gRNA vectors (FANCL_left: CCTAATGCAATTCTGCGTGCTGT and FANCL_right: TTTTTCTGGCTCAAGTACCCAGG), and a *FANCL*-Puro targeting construct (Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute). Two days post-transfection, 3.5 µg ml-1 puromycin was added, and two days later, cells were plated in 96-well plates with puromycin at a density of 1×10^4 cells per well. After 14 days of incubation, individual clones were picked and analyzed for *FANCL* targeting using the SequalPrep Long PCR kit (Applied Biosystems) (using primers FANCL_ LR_FW2, TGTCTACCCCCTAAGTTCGTTGA; EF1a_R1, GCGATCTCTGGGTTCTACG TTAGTG). Targeted clones were then plated with 100 ng ml-1 mitomycin C overnight and analyzed by immunoblotting for FANCD2. *FANCL* knockouts were identified by failure to ubiquitinate FANCD2. All cell lines were confirmed mycoplasma negative using the MycoAlert Mycoplasma Detection Kit (Lonza).

Clonogenic Survival Assay

For colony survival assay, HAP1 cells were prepared at 2×10^5 cells ml⁻¹. Cells and acetaldehyde (diluted in culture media) were mixed in 96-well blocks (Greiner Bio-One Masterblock) and foil seals (Bio-Rad Microseal 'F') were applied before culturing cells at 37˚C for 2 h. Cells were then serially diluted in PBS using a multi-channel pipette to obtain 1:10 and 1:100 dilutions, and 100 µl of each were plated in duplicate in 24-well plates filled with 1.5 mL of culture media per well. Cells were cultured for 6 days before being stained with crystal violet³⁷ and colonies were quantified by a GelCount colony counter (Oxford Optronix). Data presented reflects a minimum of three independent experiments, error bars denote S.E.M.

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Supplemental note 2

190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 ppm

13C{1H}, 13C DEPT -135 and 13C DEPT -90 NMR Spectra !

d

Supplemental note 3 - SI Figure 2

