SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

NEIL1 and NEIL2 DNA glycosylases modulate anxiety and learning in a cooperative manner in mice

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Supplementary Figure 1. Increased body weight in NEIL1-deficient mice.

The mice were weighed after the behavioral studies were completed. Data are shown in full, with overlaid boxplots representing the medians and interquartile ranges (IQR), Whiskers indicate min/max values. n = 22 WT, 17 *Neil1*^{-/-}, 10 *Neil2*^{-/-} and 16 *Neil1*^{-/-}*Neil2*^{-/-} mice. * p < 0.0185, ** p < 0.0073, *** p < 0.0003 by one-way ANOVA/Tukey.



Supplementary Figure 2. Tendency to reduced DNA damage level in NEIL1/NEIL2 -deficient mice. Hippocampal DNA damage was measured by using a restriction enzyme-based qPCR method detecting damage in the Gapdh gene. Data are shown as mean + SEM. n = 3 WT, 3 *Neil1-'*, 4 *Neil2-'-* and 4 *Neil1-'-Neil2-'-* mice. p-value by one-way ANOVA/Tukey.





Supplementary Figure 3. NEIL1 and NEIL2 deficiency have a differential effect on CA1 gene expression. (*a-c*) GO-terms relevant for CNS function in all three genotypes (PANTHER Calssification System release 15.0, analysis 8/2020, FDR<0.05, fold enrichment >2). (*d-f*) All DEGs for all genotypes (log2fold >0.3, padj <0.05). (g) Exploratory data analysis revealed two outliers, which were subsequently excluded from the group comparison (red arrows, see also PCA plot without outliers in suppl.fig.4). Individual color dots indicate individual animals. (*h*) Library contsruction quality control, outliers marked with red arrows.



Supplementary Figure 4: Addendum to *Fig. S3, g*: PCA plot without outliers; individual color dots indicate individual animals



Supplementary Figure 6



Supplementary Figure 6. Altered composition of regulatory NMDA-receptor subunits in *Neil1^{-/-}Neil2^{-/-}* CA1. Immunoreactivity levels of (a) NR2A and (b) NR2B and (c) NR2A vs. NR2B ratio in stratum pyramidale (SP), stratum oriens (SO) and stratum radiatum (SR) of CA1. Representative images (centered over SP) and an illustration of the NMDA-receptor complex are shown. Data are presented as "reactivity levels" based on Imaris spot detection tool (a) and (b) and as ratio of "reactivity levels" (c) + SEM. n = 6 slices (3 animals, 2 slices per animal), statistics conducted at animal level (see methods) per genotype. (a) * p = 0.0323, *** p = 0.0003 and **** p < 0.0001 and (B) * p = 0.0354 by two-way ANOVA/Tukey. (C) * p = 0.01, *** p < 0.0001 by multiple t-tests with Holms-Sidak-correction.



Supplementary Figure 7. Reduced expression of GABRA in CA1. (A) GABA-A-receptor $\alpha 2$ subunit (GABRA2) expression across CA1 stratum pyramidale (SP), stratum oriens (SO) and stratum radiatum (SR). * p = 0.0314 by two-way ANOVA/Tukey (p = 0.1369 for *Neil2*^{-/-} in SP). (B) Expression of PSD-95 across SP (SR and SO were not examined due to bad immunostaining signal; p = 0.0762 and 0.0983 for *Neil2*^{-/-} and *Neil1*^{-/-}*Neil2*^{-/-}, respectively, by one-way-ANOVA/Tukey). (A and B) Data are presented as "reactivity levels" based on Imaris spot detection tool ± SEM. n = 6 animals (2 slices each), statistics at animal level (see methods).