The long isoform of ZAP coordinates multiple enzymes to mediate complete decay

of target transcripts

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SUMMARY

Zinc-finger Antiviral Protein (ZAP)-mediated RNA decay (ZMD) restricts replication of

viruses containing CpG dinucleotide clusters. However, why ZAP isoforms differ in

antiviral activity and how they recruit cofactors to mediate RNA decay is unclear.

Therefore, we determined the ordered events of the ZMD pathway. The long ZAP isoform

preferentially binds viral RNA and has distinct binding motifs compared to the short

isoform. The endoribonuclease KHNYN then cleaves viral RNA at positions of ZAP

binding. The 5' cleavage fragment undergoes TUT4/TUT7-mediated 3' uridylation and

degradation by DIS3L2. The 3' cleavage fragment is degraded by XRN1. ZAP and TRIM25

interact with KHNYN, TUT7, DIS3L2 and XRN1 in a RNase-resistant manner. Viral

infection promotes the interaction between TRIM25 with these enzymes, leading to viral

RNA decay while also decreasing the abundance of cellular transcripts. Overall, the long

isoform of ZAP recruits key enzymes to assemble an RNA decay complex on viral RNA.

INTRODUCTION

A critical component of the innate immune response is the ability to distinguish between self and non-self nucleic acids. The best characterized non-self RNA detection systems include RIG-I, MDA5, PKR, OAS1-3 and ZBP1, which promote signaling that leads to antiviral gene expression, cap-dependent translation inhibition, global RNA degradation and cell death[1]. These pattern recognition receptors (PRRs) bind double-stranded RNA (dsRNA), which acts as the pathogen-associated molecular pattern (PAMP). In contrast, antiviral proteins that bind single-stranded RNA (ssRNA) often directly restrict viral replication by inhibiting viral RNA translation or targeting it for decay[2]. Zinc-finger Antiviral Protein (ZAP, also known as PARP13 or ZC3HAV1) is a paradigmatic example of a ssRNA-binding protein critical for the cell autonomous innate immune response[3,4].

ZAP is encoded by an interferon-stimulated gene (ISG) that restricts diverse viruses including retroviruses, alphaviruses, Ebola virus and human cytomegalovirus[5]. It has two primary mechanisms for inhibiting viral infection: promoting viral RNA decay[3] and inhibiting viral mRNA translation[6-8]. Several principles for the composition of ZAP-response elements (ZREs) have been determined from synonymous genome recoding of multiple viruses and structural/biochemical studies. CpG recoding can sensitize diverse viruses to ZAP-mediated restriction[9-15], though UpA recoding has also been reported to sensitize viral RNA to ZAP[11,13,16]. ZAP-mediated restriction requires the presence of at least 15 CpGs, optimally separated by ~12-30 nucleotides (nt)[17], indicating that multivalency is required for substrate recognition. Many mammalian RNA viruses have low CpG abundance, likely due to evolutionary pressure from ZAP[9,18]. The RNA binding domain (RBD) in ZAP contains four zinc finger motifs (ZnF1-4) and directly binds a single

CpG dinucleotide in pocket formed by ZnF2[3,10,12,19,20]. In addition to the CpG binding site,

RNA base-specific contacts between ZnF3 and ZnF4 have been identified and

C(n7)G(n)CG has been proposed as an optimal binding motif[12]. However, some regions

of viral RNA appear to be more sensitive to CpG-mediated ZAP restriction for unknown

reasons and high CpG abundance sometimes does not sensitize viral RNA to ZAP[14,21-25].

ZAP also regulates cellular transcript expression[26-29] and this, in addition to CpG DNA

methylation[30], has been proposed to contribute to the selective pressure against CpG

dinucleotide abundance in cellular genes[28,31,32]. However, little is known about the

composition of ZREs in cellular transcripts.

ZAP is the core of a multicomponent antiviral system. It has no enzymatic activity and

acts as a scaffold that recognizes target transcripts to recruit cofactors that inhibit

translation or mediate RNA decay[4]. The original model for ZAP-mediated RNA decay

(ZMD) was that it recruited enzymes that mediate decapping, deadenylation and

exonucleolytic degradation (Figure 1A)[33-36]. Specifically, this model proposed that ZAP

directly interacts with DDX17 to recruit DCP1A/DCP2 to mediate decapping and

subsequent 5'-3' decay via XRN1[34]. ZAP was also proposed to directly interact with PARN

and RNA exosome subunits to mediate deadenylation and 3'-5' decay[33,34]. In addition,

DHX30 was proposed to promote ZAP activity[37]. Subsequently, ZAP was shown to interact

with the E3 ubiquitin ligase TRIM25[38,39] and the endoribonuclease KHNYN[40]. This led to an

endonucleolytic decay model in which ZAP recruits KHNYN to internally cleave viral RNA

and this is promoted by TRIM25 through an unclear mechanism[4,40-42] (Figure 1B).

However, how KHNYN cleavage products are degraded is unclear in this model. Neither

model has been rigorously tested *in cellulo* and whether the two models can be

reconciled is unclear. The KHNYN paralog N4BP1 has also been implicated in ZMD and

these proteins have at least partially redundant activity for some transcripts[41,43,44].

Overall, the relative contribution of exonucleolytic versus endonucleolytic RNA decay

machinery and how they act in an ordered pathway remain poorly defined.

There are several ZAP isoforms, with ZAP-long (ZAP-L) and ZAP-short (ZAP-S) being the

most abundant[3,45,46] (Figure 1C). ZAP-S expression is induced by type I interferon while

ZAP-L is constitutively expressed[46,47], though both isoforms are induced by interferon γ[48].

Both ZAP-S and ZAP-L contain the RBD and a central domain that binds ADP-ribose[45,49,50].

ZAP-L also contains a catalytically inactive ADP-ribosyltransferase-like (ART-like) domain

and a C-terminal CaaX box that mediates S-farnesylation[45,51]. This post-translational

modification localizes ZAP-L to the cytoplasmic endomembrane system[27,51-53]. ZAP

isoforms have been proposed to have different functions[47,52] and, while ZAP-L has been

reported to have higher antiviral activity against several viruses than ZAP-S[45,46,52,53], the

mechanism for this is unknown.

There are multiple therapeutic applications arising from understanding the targeting

specificity of the ZAP antiviral system and how it mediates ZMD. TRIM25, ZAP, KHNYN and

N4BP1 target mRNAs delivered by lipid nanoparticles when they do not contain N^1-

methylpseudouridine modifications, highlighting its importance for therapeutic RNA

design[54]. Synonymous CpG-recoding of ZAP-resistant viral genomes has been shown to

be a novel way to develop live-attenuated viral vaccines[13-15,17]. Because ZAP expression is

downregulated in some types of cancer, ZAP-sensitive viruses have been proposed to be

used as oncolytic viruses because they would preferentially replicate in tumors with low

ZAP expression compared to healthy tissue[55].

In this study, we characterized the ZMD pathway to determine how ZAP interacts with

multiple enzymes to mediate viral RNA decay. Cells genetically engineered to only

express ZAP-L or ZAP-S show that, even though both isoforms contain the RBD, ZAP-L is

the predominant isoform that inhibits retroviral replication due to increased binding to

viral RNA and KHNYN. We then show that ZAP and TRIM25 interact with multiple RNA

decay enzymes including KHNYN, XRN1, TUT7 and DIS3L2 and order these enzymes into

a decay pathway. *In cellulo* identification of KHNYN cleavage sites shows that KHNYN

mediates endonucleolytic cleavage of the viral RNA in regions with high levels of ZAP

binding. The 5' cleavage fragment is 3' uridylated by the paralogs TUT4/TUT7 and then

degraded by DIS3L2. XRN1 degrades the 3' cleavage fragment. Viral infection increases

binding of TRIM25 to several components of this pathway and promotes regulation of

cellular genes by ZAP, TRIM25 and KHNYN. Overall, ZAP acts as a core scaffold for several

enzymes to mediate ZMD.

RESULTS

Differential antiviral activity between ZAP isoforms correlates with binding viral RNA

and KHNYN

ZAP restricts a wide range of viruses[5]. For this study, we used HIV-1 as a molecularly

tractable model virus to define the ordered events of the ZMD pathway. Wild-type HIV-1

(HIV-WT) is substantially depleted in CpG dinucleotides (Figure 1D) and the paucity of

these is due to strong selective pressure, likely from ZAP[9,32,56,57]. Mutations that introduce

a CpG in HIV-1 have a substantial fitness cost and the abundance of CpGs in HIV-1 *env* is

linked to disease progression[24,58,59]. Because HIV-1 is substantially depleted in CpGs,

these can be introduced through synonymous genome recoding to create HIV-CpG,

which contains a potent ZRE in *env* (Figure 1D)[9,40]. This allows isogenic viruses to be

analyzed under conditions in which ZAP restricts HIV-CpG but not HIV-WT (Figure 1E).

This restriction can be quantified, showing that HIV-CpG infectious virus production is

~1% of HIV-WT (Figure 1E). Importantly, both viruses produce similar levels of infectious

virus when ZAP is knocked out. These paired viruses allow components of the ZAP

antiviral system to be characterized under conditions in which the *cis*-acting ZRE is either

absent or present in the virus, allowing ZMD substrate specificity to be determined in

each experiment.

The relative contribution of the two primary ZAP isoforms (Figure 1C) to ZMD is

controversial. While several papers have reported that ZAP-L is more active than ZAP-S,

others have proposed that ZAP-S, or shorter fragments of ZAP, are sufficient for antiviral

activity[24,41,45,46,51,52,60]. However, many of these experiments were performed by

overexpressing ZAP isoforms in wild-type cells or reconstituting ZAP isoforms in CRISPR

knockout cells, often by transient transfection, leading to non-physiological protein

levels. Furthermore, the mechanism by which ZAP-L may be more active than ZAP-S is

unclear. Therefore, we used a set of previously described HEK293T cells that were

CRISPR-engineered to express only ZAP-L or ZAP-S by targeting splice sites and poly(A)

sites in the endogenous *ZC3HAV1* locus[27]. These cells allow the antiviral activity of ZAP-L

or ZAP-S to be characterized without ectopic expression (Figure 1F). ZAP-L knockout

eliminated almost all ZAP antiviral activity against HIV-CpG while ZAP-S knockout had

only a minor effect (Figure 1G and S1A-B), demonstrating that, in this system, ZAP-L is the

essential mediator of viral restriction.

ZAP-L has previously been reported to interact more strongly with TRIM25 and KHNYN

than ZAP-S, though one or more of these proteins was often overexpressed in the

experimental conditions[38,53,61]. To determine if ZAP-L and ZAP-S preferentially interact

with TRIM25 or KHNYN when all the proteins are expressed from their endogenous locus,

we performed co-immunoprecipitation experiments in the wild-type, ZAP-L and ZAP-S

knockout cell lines. While ZAP-L or ZAP-S knockout did not substantially affect the

interaction between ZAP and TRIM25, ZAP-L knockout led to decreased ZAP interaction

with KHNYN (Figure 1H and S1C).

Because ZAP directly binds KHNYN through its N-terminal RBD[41,42], both ZAP isoforms

contain the KHNYN interaction domain. A possible mechanism for why depletion of ZAP-

L affected the ZAP-KHNYN interaction more than ZAP-S depletion may be that ZAP-L

assembles on the ZRE more efficiently than ZAP-S. To test this hypothesis, we used

iCLIP[62] to quantify the binding of each isoform to HIV-WT and HIV-CpG RNA (Figure 1I and

S1D-F). Three peaks were identified (Figure S1G), with the first at the 5' end of the viral

genome, the second in the 5' region of *env* covering the sequence that has been CpG

recoded, and the third in the 3' region of *env*. Peak 1 is ~250 nt wide in the 5' leader region

and *gag*, which contain a packaging element[63]. Peak 2, encompassing the CpG recoded

region in HIV-CpG *env* (Figure 1D, 475 nt long[40]), is ~800 nt long, indicating that ZAP

binding extends beyond the recoded region. Peak 3 is ~800 nt long and covers splice

acceptor 7 (SA7, nt 7904-7915)[64]. As expected, ZAP binding is most pronounced in Peak

2, covering the engineered ZRE. Consistent with ZAP oligomerization and the hypothesis

that multivalent binding of ZAP to multiple CpGs is required for its antiviral activity[17,41,65],

the iCLIP data implies assembly of ZAP molecules that cover wide, non-contiguous

regions on the viral RNA. Interestingly, the CpG clusters underlying Peak 1 and Peak 3,

which are present in both HIV-WT and HIV-CpG, show higher levels of binding in HIV-CpG

than HIV-WT RNA (Figure S1D and S1H), indicating that high ZAP binding to the

engineered region promotes additional ZAP recruitment at non-contiguous regions in the

viral RNA containing clustered CpGs. Of note, the thresholds used for this peak

identification were then used for all subsequent ZAP peak calling. In cells depleted for

ZAP-S, high levels of ZAP-L binding to HIV-CpG RNA were observed (Figure 1I, S1F and

S1I). By contrast, in ZAP-L knockout cells, ZAP-S showed low levels of RNA binding,

correlating with its low antiviral activity (Figure 1I, S1E and S1I). In sum, ZAP-L is the

primary antiviral isoform against HIV-CpG due to increased binding to HIV-CpG RNA and

a stronger interaction with KHNYN.

ZAP-L and ZAP-S bind different motifs and regulate transcripts from different genes

A potential evolutionary scenario for ZAP-regulated cellular transcripts is that ZAP

evolved to restrict viral replication and was then exapted to control cellular transcripts

containing similar sequences to the targeted viruses[66]. To determine why ZAP-L may bind

HIV-CpG RNA better than ZAP-S, we analyzed the iCLIP data for ZAP binding to cellular

transcripts. Motif analysis using PEKA[67] identified different motifs for ZAP-L and ZAP-S

(Figure 2A), with a UpA upstream of the CpG for 12 of the top 14 ZAP-L motifs, often in a

UACG or UANCG context (Figure S2A). This may at least partially explain why UpA

recoding of viral open reading frames can make a virus ZAP sensitive[11,13,16].

We then analyzed whether ZAP-L and ZAP-S regulated different cellular transcripts using

poly(A) RNA-seq (Table S1) and identified 156 and 240 genes encoding transcripts

specifically regulated by ZAP-L or ZAP-S, respectively, in HIV-WT infected cells. Gene

ontology (GO) analysis indicated that these are enriched for different

function/localization (Figure S2B-C). Genes encoding ZAP-L regulated transcripts are

enriched for plasma membrane, collogen-containing extracellular matrix, basement

membrane and cell adhesion (Figure S2B), indicating that they might be associated with

the plasma membrane or secreted. An example is the previously identified ZAP-regulated

gene TNFRSF10D (also known as TRAILR4), which acts as a decoy receptor to inhibit

TRAIL-mediated apoptosis[26,27]. Similar to HIV-CpG, transcript abundance from this gene

is preferentially regulated by ZAP-L (Figure 2B). In contrast, genes encoding ZAP-S

regulated transcripts are enriched for several transcription terms including transcription

factor AP-1 complex (Figure S2C). Several genes encoding components of the AP-1

transcription factor were upregulated specifically in ZAP-S knockout cells, including JUN,

JUNB, JUND and FOS (Figure 2C and S2D-F), and AP-1 activity was increased in ZAP-S

knockout cells (Figure 2D).

ZAP-L and ZAP-S have differential subcellular localization because ZAP-L has a C-

terminal CaaX box mediating S-farnesylation and membrane targeting[26,27,51-53]. ZAP-S is

diffuse in the cytoplasm while ZAP-L localizes to the endoplasmic reticulum,

endosomes, mitochondria and plasma membrane as well as the cytosol[26,27,51-53]. We

determined that HIV-CpG infection does not alter ZAP-L or ZAP-S localization, with both

showing the expected localization in uninfected and infected cells (Figure S2G). Because

ZAP-L partially localizes to the ER, we determined the proportion of genes encoding

transcripts regulated by ZAP-L or ZAP-S that contain a signal peptide sequence. 26% of

ZAP-L regulated genes and 13% of ZAP-S regulated genes are predicted to encode a signal

peptide (Figure 2E).

ZAP has been reported to regulate cellular transcript abundance through multiple direct

or indirect mechanisms including inhibiting microRNA-mediated repression after stress

or viral infection[68,69], modulating stress responses[27], modulating the type I interferon

response[29,31,52] and directly binding ZREs[26]. Therefore, we used the iCLIP data (Table S2)

to determine which genes regulated by ZAP may encode transcripts that are direct

targets. Transcripts from 16 of the 156 ZAP-L regulated genes and 42 of the 240 ZAP-S

regulated genes had defined ZAP binding peaks. Because ZAP-L is more antiviral than

ZAP-S, we focused on ZAP-L peaks. The average peak width for ZAP-L-regulated genes

was 246 nt (Table S2), which is long enough for multiple ZAP molecules to bind. Nine of

the 16 ZAP-L regulated genes with ZAP binding peaks had a predicted signal peptide or

known transmembrane domain, again showing that ZAP-L regulates transcripts that

localize to the ER and to other compartments. ZAP-L preferentially bound TNFRSF10D

RNA (Figure 2F) and there were two defined peaks in the transcript (Figure S3).

Interestingly, while UpAs are selected against in cellular transcripts expressed in the

cytoplasm[70], we observed abundant UpAs interspersed with CpGs in these peaks (Figure

S3) and a UACG motif in each peak that matches the core of several ZAP-L binding motifs

(Figure 2A and S2A).

HIV-1 infection induces assembly of the ZAP-TRIM25-KHNYN complex and regulation of cellular transcripts

To determine if the presence of a substantial amount of ZAP substrate during HIV-CpG infection affects the interaction between ZAP, TRIM25 and KHNYN, we performed co-immunoprecipitation experiments in mock infected, HIV-WT and HIV-CpG infected HeLa cells (Figure 3A-B). Interestingly, upon HIV-WT or HIV-CpG infection, there was an increase in the RNase-resistant interaction between TRIM25 and KHNYN (Figure 3B and S4A), even though the abundance of these proteins was unchanged. As expected[41], TRIM25 knockout did not affect the interaction between ZAP and KHNYN (Figure 3C). Therefore, viral infection appears to promote assembly of the ZAP-TRIM25-KHNYN complex, but this does not require the strong ZRE present in HIV-CpG.

We then analyzed the effect of viral infection for ZMD of cellular transcripts using poly(A) RNA-seq data from mock, HIV-WT or HIV-CpG infected Control, ZAP, TRIM25 or KHNYN CRISPR cells (Table S3). Gene set enrichment analysis of differentially expressed genes between HIV-WT or HIV-CpG infected cells compared to mock infected cells showed a substantial change in transcripts associated with pathogen signaling including TNFα signaling, inflammatory response, interferon-α and interferon-γ responses (Figure 3D-E). This suggests that the increase in ZMD complex assembly correlates with an overall antiviral response and we posited that HIV-1 infection may stimulate ZMD activity.

To determine how HIV-WT and HIV-CpG infection affect transcripts regulated by ZMD, we focused on transcripts upregulated when ZAP, TRIM25 or KHNYN were knocked out. HIV-WT or HIV-CpG infection increased the number of genes expressing transcripts

upregulated by ZAP or TRIM25 by ~2-3-fold and KHNYN-upregulated transcripts by ~5-

fold (Figure S4B-D). Analysis of genes encoding transcripts co-upregulated by ZAP,

TRIM25 and KHNYN showed an ~10-fold increase in both HIV-WT and HIV-CpG infected

cells compared to mock infected cells (Figure 4A-B). As expected from ZAP-L localization

and preferential regulation of transcripts encoding membrane proteins[26,27], the GO

analysis for ZAP-TRIM25-KHNYN co-upregulated genes showed that these were enriched

for encoding proteins associated with the endoplasmic reticulum (Figure 4C, Table S3).

Because ZAP has been reported to regulate a subset of interferon-repressed genes[31], we

also analyzed whether ZAP-TRIM25-KHNYN were required for repression of some genes

whose expression is downregulated after HIV-1 infection (Figure S5A). Exemplar genes

that encode transcripts regulated by ZAP, TRIM25 and KHNYN include the previously

reported ZAP-regulated gene ZMAT3[71] as well as HSPB8 and DIO2, which is

downregulated upon viral infection (Figure 4D-G and S5B-C).

ZAP, TRIM25 and KHNYN may also autoregulate ZAP-L abundance. ZAP-L expression has

previously been shown to increase in TRIM25 knockout cells after human

cytomegalovirus infection[72,73], though this was initially proposed to be due to changes in

alternative splicing of ZAP mRNA[72]. However, ZAP has recently been shown to bind a

region in the 3' UTR of ZAP-L[29], which may indicate that ZAP-L abundance is controlled by

TRIM25 and KHNYN through this ZRE. We confirmed that there is a strong ZAP binding

peak encompassing the ZAP-L mRNA 3' UTR that is not present in the ZAP-S mRNA (Figure

S5D-E). We also observed that ZAP-L expression increased in TRIM25 and KHNYN

knockout cells (Figure S5F-G). An isoform level analysis of poly(A) RNA-seq showed that

this correlates with increased ZAP-L mRNA abundance in HIV-infected TRIM25 and

KHNYN knockout cells (Figure S5H) This highlights that ZAP, TRIM25 and KHNYN

autoregulate ZAP-L expression. Overall, HIV-1 infection increases the interaction

between TRIM25 and KHNYN and this correlates with an increase in the number of genes

that are co-regulated by ZAP, TRIM25 and KHNYN, implying that an infectious stimulus

modulates the activity of ZMD on host transcripts.

Previous reports have shown that TRIM25 depletion decreases the interaction between

ZAP and Ebola virus RNA or a reporter transcript that is regulated by ZAP at the level of

translation[39,74]. Consistent with these reports, RNA-immunoprecipitation experiments

showed that ZAP binding to HIV-CpG RNA was moderately decreased in TRIM25 knockout

cells (Figure S6A). Analyzing ZAP iCLIP data for HIV-CpG infected TRIM25 knockout cells

also showed a moderate decrease in ZAP bound to viral RNA (Figure S6B-C). TRIM25

could directly regulate ZAP binding to viral RNA or depleting TRIM25 could sequester ZAP

on cellular transcripts that are unable to undergo decay, which would limit the pool of

ZAP available to bind exogenous transcripts such as viral RNA. We analyzed the effect of

TRIM25 depletion on ZAP binding to cellular transcripts in our iCLIP datasets and found

that 127 genes had increased normalized read abundance in TRIM25 CRISPR cells

compared to Control CRISPR cells (Figure S6D). Most of the 52 genes downregulated for

ZAP binding had low read abundance. ZAP (ZC3HAV1) was one of the top genes

upregulated for ZAP binding in TRIM25 knockout cells and a substantial increase in signal

was observed in the ZAP binding peak within the ZAP-L 3' UTR (Figure S6E), which could

reflect both the increased ZAP-L abundance in TRIM25 depleted cells and ZAP

accumulation on the transcript due to reduced decay. Taken together, the decreased ZAP

binding we and others have observed on exogenous transcripts when TRIM25 is depleted

could be due to increased ZAP binding on cellular transcripts and therefore a smaller

pool of ZAP available to target viral RNA.

While TRIM25 has been proposed to regulate the specificity of ZMD in addition to its

potency[41], we did not observe any substantial change in ZAP antiviral activity against HIV-

WT in TRIM25 knockout cells (Figure S5G). Furthermore, the relative position of ZAP

binding to HIV-CpG RNA did not change in TRIM25 knockout cells (Figure S6B, Spearman

correlation of relative crosslink signal at each nucleotide in CRISPR control and TRIM25

knockout cells = 0.92). PEKA analysis of iCLIP data for cellular transcripts in CRISPR

control and TRIM25 knockout cells showed that the UpA + CpG motifs identified for ZAP-

L were enriched in both conditions and there was no substantial change in the number of

cellular transcripts with ZAP binding peaks (Figure S6F-G, Table S4). Therefore, TRIM25

appears to moderately regulate ZAP binding to viral RNA, possibly due to ZAP being

sequestered on cellular RNA when TRIM25 is depleted, but does not change the ZAP

targeting specificity.

XRN1 degrades the 3' fragment after endonucleolytic cleavage

We then sought to test the exonucleolytic and endonucleolytic decay models for ZMD

(Figure 1A-B). One prediction of the ZMD endonucleolytic model (Figure 1B) is that

KHNYN binding would be present in regions with clustered CpGs. Therefore, we used

iCLIP to map KHNYN binding sites on HIV-CpG RNA. Because we have not found an

antibody that efficiently immunoprecipitates KHNYN, we identified KHNYN binding sites

on viral RNA using a previously characterized stable cell line expressing an active KHNYN-

GFP fusion protein[61]. KHNYN had substantial binding within areas of high CpG

abundance, including the CpG recoded region of HIV-CpG (Figure 5A). It also bound

motifs containing a CpG (Figure S7A). As KHNYN has no known RNA binding

specificity[42,44], this supports the hypothesis that ZAP recruits KHNYN to target RNA.

Interestingly, motifs enriched around KHNYN crosslink sites also contain UpA

dinucleotides, including UACG motifs (Figure S7A).

For the ZMD exonucleolytic decay model (Figure 1A), ZAP has been reported to interact

with PARN, the exosome complex (EXOSC5, EXOSC7), DCP2, XRN1, DDX17 and DDX30[33-

[35,37,75]. In addition, ZAP has been reported to interact with components of the CCR4-NOT

deadenylation complex[76,77]. The endonucleolytic and exonucleolytic models could be

reconciled if these are parallel pathways or if some of the exonucleolytic model

components are required for RNA decay after endonucleolytic cleavage. To identify

whether any of these proteins are required for ZAP antiviral activity on HIV-CpG, we

depleted them using RNAi. While siRNA-mediated depletion of ZAP, TRIM25 and KHNYN

increased HIV-CpG infectious virus production, none of the ZAP cofactors implicated in

the exonucleolytic model had an effect (Figure S7B-E), consistent with a previous study[9].

This suggests that the endonucleolytic pathway is dominant for restricting HIV-CpG,

leading to a cleaved viral genome that can't be translated or packaged into virions.

However, exonucleases could be required to degrade viral RNA fragments after KHNYN

cleavage. Therefore, we designed a probe to potentially identify the 3' cleavage fragment

of HIV-1 RNA with the presumption that many KHNYN cleavage sites will be near the

major ZAP binding site in the CpG-recoded region (probe 2 (p2) in Figure 5B). Of note, due

to the complex HIV-1 alternative splicing program[64], only the unspliced and singly spliced

HIV-1 transcripts will contain the ZAP-sensitive CpG-recoded region and the fully spliced

RNAs are not subject to ZMD[9,40] (Figure 5B). To quantify only ZAP-sensitive transcripts, p2

was designed to span SA7, which is the last sequence that is specific to the singly and

unspliced transcripts. Notably, this sequence is within ZAP binding peak 3 (Figure 1I).

RNAi-mediated depletion of CNOT1, PARN, EXOSC3, EXOSC5, EXOSC7, DDX17 or

DHX30 did not affect HIV-CpG RNA abundance using the probe for the 3' fragment (Figure

S7F-G), but depletion of the 5'-3' exonuclease XRN1 led to a significant increase in

abundance (Figure 5C).

To determine if ZAP and TRIM25 interact with XRN1, we performed co-

immunoprecipitation experiments in the absence and presence of HIV-1 infection (Figure

5D-E and Figure S7H). Both proteins interact with XRN1 in a RNase-resistant manner and

the interaction between TRIM25 and XRN1 is stimulated by either HIV-WT or HIV-CpG

infection. Similar to the interaction between ZAP and KHNYN, TRIM25 is not required for

ZAP to interact with XRN1 (Figure S7I). Overall, we hypothesize that a ZAP-TRIM25

complex recruits XRN1 to degrade the 3' cleavage product.

An important prediction of the endonucleolytic model for ZMD is that internal cleavage

sites should be identified when degradation of the cleavage products is inhibited.

Therefore, we used 5' RACE to identify potential cleavage sites in XRN1 depleted cells

using a HIV-1 specific primer at the 3' end of the viral genome (Figure 5B). Visualizing the

RACE products on an agarose gel showed that a novel band appeared for the control

siRNA HIV-CpG sample (3' cleavage fragment in Figure 5F). When ZAP was depleted, this

band was not present and the abundance of the band increased when XRN1 was knocked

down. Therefore, we hypothesized that this band could be a KHNYN cleavage product

that is further degraded by XRN1. To map the cleavage sites, we used Oxford Nanopore

sequencing for the total 5' RACE reactions and identified the 5' end of each read. In XRN1

knockdown cells, HIV-CpG 5' ends clustered in ZAP binding Peaks 2 and 3 (Figure 5G).

This indicates that ZAP likely recruits KHNYN to these sites to mediate cleavage and that

the ZAP binding in Peak 3 is sufficient for KHNYN cleavage. This also suggests that the

increase in 3' cleavage fragment abundance when XRN1 is depleted (Figure 5C) may be

underestimated because probe 2 (Figure 5B) covers the site of endonucleolytic cleavage

in ZAP binding Peak 3. However, as described above, this is the most distal 3' sequence

that the probe can cover and still be specific for the ZRE-containing RNA. Importantly, the

5' RACE assay has a 3' bias in that if KHNYN cuts multiple times in a transcript, the 5' end

closest to the RACE primer will be identified, so the relative frequency of cleavage sites

in Peaks 2 and 3 should not be directly compared. The sequence underlying Peak 3 is

identical between HIV-WT and HIV-CpG, suggesting that ZAP binding in Peak 2 not only

promotes ZAP binding in Peak 3 (Figure S1D and H) but that this binding is functional,

leading to endonucleolytic cleavage.

We identified 153 high confidence cleavage sites spanning nt 6007-8299. Interestingly,

68 of these were within a 92 nt region from nt 6261-6352 in which almost every nucleotide

was a high confidence cleavage site (Figure S8A-B). Within this region, both CpG and UpA

are enriched (observed/expected CpG = 1.72, UpA = 1.48). There are nine UACG motifs in

the HIV-CpG genome, seven of which have been introduced by CpG-recoding, and three

of these are found within the 92 nt region (Figure S8B). There was strong ZAP iCLIP signal

and moderate KHNYN iCLIP signal (Figure S8A), which may be indicative of active

cleavage and a short KHNYN residence time on the RNA. Therefore, frequent

endonucleolytic cleavage correlated with high levels of ZAP binding in a region containing

UACG motifs, consistent with the sequence within several of the top ZAP-L iCLIP motifs

(Figure 2A and S2A).

The 5' cleavage fragment is 3' uridylated by TUT4/7 and then degraded by DIS3L2

To determine how the 5' cleavage fragment was degraded, we set up a qRT-PCR assay

with a primer-probe set upstream of Peak 2 (probe 1 (p1) in Figure S9A) and then screened

the RNA degradation proteins linked to ZAP to determine if they regulate the abundance

of this fragment. Surprisingly, depletion of three exosome subunits, EXOSC3, EXOSC5 or

EXOSC7, had no effect on the abundance of the 5' cleavage fragment (Figure S9B).

Depletion of CNOT1, PARN, XRN1, DDX17 or DHX30 also had no effect, indicating that

degradation of the 5' fragment was not regulated by known ZAP-interacting proteins

linked to RNA decay. Therefore, we performed 3' RACE to identify the location and identity

of the 3' ends of the 5' cleavage fragment (Figure 6A and S9A). A potential 5' cleavage

fragment was observed specifically in cells infected with HIV-CpG and was not present

when ZAP was depleted. We cloned this band and sequenced seven clones using Sanger

sequencing. Interestingly, reads terminated within ZAP binding Peak 2 and several had

non-templated uridines at the 3' end (Figure 6B). This result raised the possibility that the

5' fragment was modified by 3' uridylation.

Several members of the TENT family of polymerases add non-templated nucleotides at

the 3' end of transcripts and TUT1, TUT4 and TUT7 are three proteins that specifically add

non-templated uridines[78]. TUT1 is a nuclear protein that had no effect when it was

depleted (Figure 6C). In contrast, depletion of two cytoplasmic paralogs that are often

functionally redundant, TUT4 and TUT7, promoted an increase in the abundance of the 5'

cleavage fragment (Figure 6C and S9C). As expected, TUT4/7 depletion had no effect on

infectious virus production, indicating that it acts downstream of endonucleolytic

cleavage (Figure S9D), or the abundance of the 3' cleavage fragment (Figure S9E). We

then analyzed whether ZAP and TRIM25 interacted with TUT7. Both proteins interacted

with it in an RNase-resistant manner and this interaction was increased in the presence

of HIV-WT or HIV-CpG infection (Figure S9F-H). The interaction between ZAP and TUT7

was not altered in TRIM25 knockout cells (Figure S9I).

DIS3L2 is an exosome-independent, 3'-5' exoribonuclease that degrades transcripts with

3' terminal uridylation[79-81]. Depleting its expression increased expression of transcripts

using the 5' probe but not the 3' probe (Figure 6C and S10A-B), indicating that it is required

to degrade the 5' KHNYN cleavage fragment. DIS3L2 depletion does not affect HIV-CpG

infectious virus production (Figure S10C), indicating that it also acts after

endonucleolytic cleavage. ZAP and TRIM25 interact with DIS3L2 in an RNase-resistant

manner, and the interaction between TRIM25 and DIS3L2 is increased by HIV infection

(Figure S10D-F). Knocking out TRIM25 did not affect the interaction between ZAP and

DIS3L2 (Figure S10G). We then used 3' RACE-seq to map internal cleavage sites in HIV-

CpG after DIS3L2 depletion and found that they are concentrated in ZAP binding Peak 2

(Figure 6D). We also determined proportion of 3' uridylation and length. When DIS3L2 is

depleted, ~50% of the reads have at least one non-templated nucleotide and a

substantial portion have at least 10 non-templated nucleotides (Figure 6E). These non-

templated nucleotides are highly enriched in uridine, indicating a poly-uridine tail. In

contrast, when ZAP is depleted, few reads contain non-templated tails and the strong

enrichment for uridine is not present. These data indicate that after KHNYN cleavage, the

5' cleavage products of the viral RNA become 3'-polyuridylated by TUT4/7 and are then

degraded by DIS3L2.

Overall, these experiments lead to a comprehensive model for ZMD (Figure 7). ZAP-L

forms a complex with TRIM25 and KHNYN to direct KHNYN-mediated endonucleolytic

cleavage in regions of high ZAP binding. After cleavage, ZAP and TRIM25 interact with

additional RNA decay machinery to mediate degradation of the resultant fragments.

XRN1 degrades the 3' cleavage fragment. The 5' cleavage fragment is 3' uridylated by

TUT4/7 and then degraded by DIS3L2. This allows the entire viral RNA to be degraded after

its recognition by ZAP.

DISCUSSION

Determining how ZAP selects specific transcripts for decay is essential to utilize it for

novel vaccine and oncolytic virus development and to prevent it from targeting

therapeutic RNAs. A simple model for ZMD specificity is that ZAP binds CpG

dinucleotides through ZnF2 in its RBD and regions containing clustered CpGs are

sufficient to mediate specificity[9,10,12,17]. Supporting this model, ZAP has high affinity for

RNAs containing a CpG dinucleotide and CpG recoding can sensitize diverse viruses to

ZAP-mediated restriction[9-14]. However, some regions of viral RNA appear to be more

sensitive to CpG-mediated ZAP restriction and high levels of CpG abundance sometimes

does not sensitize viral RNA to ZAP[14,21-25]. In particular, this has been shown for

synonymous recoding of influenza virus to develop novel live attenuated virus vaccines.

Some CpG recoding strategies have led to ZAP-mediated attenuation and in other cases

substantial increases in CpG abundance have not sensitized the virus to ZAP[14,22,82,83]. In

addition, UpA recoding has been reported to sensitize viral RNA to ZAP[11,13,16]. Our data

indicate that while both ZAP-L and ZAP-S bind motifs containing a CpG, ZAP-L binds

motifs that also contain an upstream UpA. This may explain why UpA recoding can

sensitize a virus to ZAP-mediated restriction. Many viral genomes are depleted in both

CpG and UpA dinucleotides[70] and introducing both into such viruses may increase their

sensitivity to ZAP-L. Supporting this hypothesis, a study published while this manuscript

was under revision compared CpG to CpG + UpA recoding for West Nile virus and found

that CpG + UpA recoding had superior pre-clinical vaccine characteristics[15].

Why ZAP-L and ZAP-S bind different RNA sequence motifs given they have the same RBD

remains unclear, but it is likely directly or indirectly regulated by the ART-like domain and

C-terminal S-farnesylation. Adding a CaaX box at the C-terminus of ZAP-S partially

increases its antiviral activity, and this correlates with its localization to the

endomembrane system[52,53]. However, transferring the CaaX box to the ZAP-S does not

restore full antiviral activity and the ART-like domain likely has a role as well, though its

function is not known. While ZAP-S is predominately cytosolic, ZAP-L localizes to multiple

organelles in the endomembrane system as well as the cytosol[26,27,51-53] and may target

transcripts in several cytoplasmic regions. Recent studies have highlighted that cellular

transcripts associate with multiple compartments in the endomembrane system

including the ER, outer mitochondrial membrane, endosomes and TIS granules[84-86]. High

resolution studies will be required to determine how ZAP-L and ZAP-S subcellular

localization controls transcripts that localize in specific cytoplasmic compartments.

ZAP-L and ZAP-S could bind different motifs through interacting with different cofactors

or due to conformational changes, possibly regulated by membrane binding. The ZAP

RBD has four zinc fingers and RNA binding has been observed in regions outside of the

ZnF2 CpG binding pocket[12,20,87]. In addition, it has been reported to interact with many

other RNA binding proteins[4]. How ZnF1, ZnF3 and ZnF4 in the ZAP RBD and other ZAP-

interacting RNA binding proteins contribute to specific RNA targeting and ZMD activity

will require future studies.

While we focused on ZAP-L-mediated RNA decay in this study, ZAP-S has several reported

roles and how RNA binding differences between ZAP-L and ZAP-S regulate different

aspects of cellular function remain an important area for further investigation. ZAP-S has

been shown to regulate RIG-I signalling[47], interferon mRNA abundance[52] and the

unfolded protein response during cellular stress[27] as well as restrict SARS-CoV-2 by

inhibiting programmed ribosomal frameshifting[8]. An interesting implication for how ZAP-

L and ZAP-S regulate different transcripts is how this contributes to diseases in which ZAP

expression is dysregulated, such as some types of cancer[26,55,88]. While several studies

have analyzed ZAP-regulated transcripts in the context of knocking out both ZAP-S and

ZAP-L[26,28,29], here we have extended a previous study[27] showing differential transcript

targeting by the two isoforms. ZAP-L regulation of TNFRSF10D and ZAP-S regulation of AP-

1 activity are two examples of how ZAP isoforms may impact tumorigenesis. While the

functional consequences of alterations in ZAP-L or ZAP-S expression for cellular

transcripts requires further study, future characterization of the role of ZAP in tumors

should consider isoform specific changes as well as overall changes in ZAP expression.

In this study, we have focused on the role of KHNYN for mediating the endonucleolytic

cleavage event but N4BP1 may also cleave ZAP-targeted RNA. N4BP1 is a core vertebrate

ISG[89] and is functionally redundant with KHNYN for some transcripts[41,43,44]. N4BP1 targets

specific mRNAs[90] and whether N4BP1 and KHNYN have differential transcript specificity

is not clear. While the ZAP RBD binds the KHNYN CUE-like domain[41], several of the

residues in KHNYN that mediate this interaction are not conserved in the N4BP1 CUE-like

domain[61]. This implies that there may be further interactions between ZAP and

KHNYN/N4BP1 or that they interact with other components of the ZAP antiviral system[54].

How KHNYN is regulated so that it only cleaves at sites directed by ZAP is unclear, though

it shows specificity for targeting ZAP-sensitive viruses even when overexpressed[21,40].

KHNYN abundance on a per molecule basis is substantially lower than ZAP[61] and it is

likely a limiting factor for antiviral activity[40]. Structural studies will be required to

understand how multiple ZAP molecules assemble on a ZRE and interact with KHNYN to

provide targeted decay. Other endonucleases in the same gene family as KHNYN, such

as ZC3H12A[91], are controlled through a combination of post-translational modifications

that regulate their stability and interaction with other proteins and this may be important

for KHNYN activity as well. Furthermore, KHNYN is highly active in the presence of

manganese[92], which can be released into the cytosol after viral infection[93], and local

manganese abundance may also regulate its activity.

One of the major unresolved questions for ZMD is how TRIM25 regulates ZAP activity.

TRIM25 has ubiquitylation/ISGylation activity[38,39,74,94], multimerizes through its N-terminal

RING domain[41,95] and also binds RNA[96-98]. All of these functions have been proposed to

regulate its antiviral activity and an interaction between TRIM25 and TUT4 has also been

reported to control let-7 microRNA decay[99]. Consistent with previous reports[39,74], we

found that TRIM25 depletion decreased ZAP binding to viral RNA. However, this effect is

moderate and may be due to an increased occupancy of ZAP on cellular transcripts,

which could decrease the pool of ZAP available to target exogenous RNA. Because

TRIM25 binds both cellular and viral RNA[96-102], it could act as a co-reader with ZAP to

ensure target specificity[29]. Alternatively, it could promote multimeric ZAP complex

formation through RING domain dimerisation[41] or modify a component of the ZAP

antiviral system with ubiquitin or ISG15[38,39,74,94]. Specific mutations in TRIM25 that isolate

different activities will be required to determine how it regulates ZAP antiviral activity,

though this is challenging since TRIM25 binds ssRNA and dsRNA through multiple sites

and RNA binding, multimerization and E3 ubiquitin ligase activity are linked[96-98]. HIV

infection increased TRIM25 interaction with KHNYN, XRN1, TUT7 and DIS3L2 and this

correlates with increased repression of cellular transcripts by ZAP, TRIM25 and KHNYN.

Importantly, this occurred for both HIV-WT and HIV-CpG infection, indicating that viral

RNA substrate is not required for increased TRIM25 interaction with RNA decay enzymes.

While TRIM25 RNA binding activity is regulated by pH[54] and local pH changes caused by

viral infection could modulate its interaction with RNA, possibly through virion fusion with

endosomes or alterations in mitochondria, we note that the interaction between TRIM25

and the RNA decay enzymes was RNase-resistant. Therefore, additional changes in

TRIM25 in the context of viral infection, such as post-translational modifications, may

control the ZAP antiviral system by altering the TRIM25 interactome.

We have shown that depletion of the 5' RNA decay fragment requires TUT4/7, indicating

that uridylation after an internal cleavage event is required for complete viral RNA decay.

While 3' uridylation has previously been linked to restriction of viruses[103,104] and LINE-1

retrotransposition[105], this has predominately been proposed to occur at the 3' end of the

transcript. One reason why 3' uridylation might be critical for degradation of viral RNA is

that it can recruit DIS3L2, which can degrade structured RNA[106]. Higher order RNA

structures are common in viral RNA, especially positive strand RNA virus genomes. For

example, the HIV-1 genome has several regions of RNA structure[107] and the ability of

DIS3L2 to degrade structured RNA may be required to completely destroy the viral RNA.

It should be noted that many ZAP-sensitive viruses produce viral RNA that comprise a

substantial percentage of total poly(A) RNA[108-110]. Complete degradation of the RNA may

be important to prevent partially degraded RNA species from sequestering cellular RNA

binding proteins, stimulating the innate immune response or otherwise dysregulating

cellular RNA metabolism.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

While the iCLIP experiments demonstrate ZAP binding over three broad regions in HIV-

CpG RNA, this technique does not determine the number and location of ZAP molecules

bound to HIV-CpG at individual transcript resolution. Therefore, while we hypothesize

that ZAP multivalent binding is important for target specificity, which is supported by

previous genetic studies[9,17], the iCLIP experiments do not show this definitively.

Furthermore, while the RACE-seq experiments show that ZAP-specific internal cleavage

sites correlate with regions of ZAP binding on HIV-CpG, we cannot correlate cleavage

sites with specific ZAP binding sites on an individual transcript basis.

METHODS

Cell lines, viruses and infection

HEK293T CRISPR cells[27], HeLa, HeLa CRISPR cells[40,61] and TZM-bl cells[111-113] were maintained in high-glucose DMEM supplemented with GlutaMAX (Thermo Fisher Scientific), 10% fetal bovine serum, 100 U/mL penicillin and 100 µg/mL streptomycin and grown with 5% CO_2 at 37°C.

HIV-WT and HIV-CpG stocks were produced by co-transfecting pHIV-WT[114] or pHIV-CpG[40] with pVSV-G[115] into HEK293T CRISPR ZAP cells, harvesting at 48h post-transfection and titering on TZM-bl cells as described below. The sequences of HIV-WT and HIV-CpG are available in the National Center for Biotechnology Information Nucleotide Database with Accession MN685337 and MN685350, respectively.

Unless otherwise stated, cells were infected at MOI=3. The medium was replaced 18 hours (h) post-infection. Cell lysates and supernatants were collected at 48 hours post-infection. Cell-free supernatants were produced by centrifugation at 300×*g* for five minutes.

siRNA transfection and infection

siRNA were purchased from Horizon Discovery and transfected using Lipofectamine RNAiMAX (Invitrogen). siRNAs were reverse-transfected with 1 µL lipofectamine at 25 nM final concentration for 90,000 HeLa cells in a 24-well plate. 24 hours later, the medium was replaced, and cells were transfected again with siRNA at 25 nM final concentration with 1µL lipofectamine. 6-8 hours later, cells were infected with HIV-1 at MOI=3. The

medium was replaced 18 hours post-infection. Supernatant and cell lysates were

collected 48 hours post-infection as described above.

TZM-bl infectivity assay

The TZM-bl cell line was used to quantify the amount of infectious virus[111-113]. 1×10^4 cells

per well were seeded in 96-well plates and infected by incubation with virus stocks or

supernatants of infected cells. At 40-48 hours post-infection, cells were lysed and

infectivity was measured by β-galactosidase expression using the Galacto-Star assay

system as per the manufacturer instructions. β-galactosidase activity was quantified as

relative light units per second using a PerkinElmer luminometer.

Immunoblotting

Cell lysates for immunoblotting were prepared in Laemmli buffer. Virions were pelleted

from culture supernatant by centrifugation at 20,000 x g for 2 hours at 4°C through a 20%

sucrose cushion in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS). Viral pellets were resuspended in

2x Laemmli buffer. Samples were boiled for 10 min at 95°C, separated on 8-16% gradient

precast gels (BioRad; Millipore) and then transferred to nitrocellulose or PVDF

membranes (Amersham). Membranes were briefly rinsed in PBS then blocked in blocking

buffer (PBS, 5% non-fat milk, 0.1% Tween 20) for 30 minutes at RT. Membranes were

incubated with primary antibodies diluted in blocking buffer at 4°C overnight, then

washed 3 times for 5 min in PBS-T (PBS, 0.1% Tween 20), then incubated with secondary

antibodies diluted in blocking buffer for 1h at RT, then washed for 3 times for 5 min in PBS-

T. Membranes were imaged using an Odyssey FC (LI-COR) measuring secondary

antibody fluorescence, or using Amersham ECL Prime Western Blotting Detection

reagent (Cytiva) for HRP-linked antibodies with an Amersham ImageQuant 800 (Cytiva).

Antibodies used in this study are reported in the STAR methods table.

Coimmunoprecipitation

1.5 mg Dynabeads protein A (Invitrogen) per sample were incubated in lysis buffer (0.5%

Nonidet P 40 (NP40) substitute, 10mM HEPES pH=7.5, 150mM KCl, 3mM MgCL2,

protease inhibitor) supplemented with 5% BSA for 30 min at RT and under gentle

agitation. 4 µg of antibody per sample was bound to the beads for 30 min at RT and under

gentle agitation. The unbound antibody was then washed off and the beads were

resuspended in 50 µL lysis buffer per sample. Cells cultivated in a 10-cm dish were lysed

on ice in 1mL lysis buffer. In case of infected cells (MOI=3), cells were lysed 48 hours post-

infection. Lysates were gently mixed on a rotator for 30 min at 4°C, then centrifuged at

20,000 ×g for 10 min to pellet the nuclear fraction. 75 µL of the post-nuclear supernatant

was saved as the input lysate and mixed with 1 volume of Laemmli buffer. 900 µL of the

remaining post-nuclear supernatant was incubated with the prepared beads under

gentle agitation over night at 4°C. The samples were then washed four times in wash

buffer (0.05% Nonidet P 40 substitute, 10mM HEPES pH=7.5, 150mM KCl, 3mM MgCL2,

protease inhibitor) before being resuspended in 90 µL Laemmli buffer. For experiments

including an RNase I treatment, the samples were washed twice in wash buffer after the

overnight incubation with the prepared beads, then resuspended in 100 µL wash buffer.

The samples were incubated with 300 U RNase I for 30 min at 37°C and washed three

times in wash buffer before being resuspended in 90 µL Laemmli buffer. Input lysates and

samples were analyzed by immunoblotting as described above. Coimmunoprecipitation

and pull-down immunoblots were quantified using Image Studio (LI-COR Biotech).

Relative coimmunoprecipitation efficiency was calculated as the ratio of

coimmunoprecipitation to pulldown then normalized to the same ratio calculated in

control conditions.

qRT-PCR

Total RNA was extracted using the RNeasy Mini Kit (Qiagen). cDNA was synthesized using

the High-Capacity cDNA RT kit (Applied Biosystems) following the manufacturer's

instructions. cDNA was diluted 20 times in RNase-free water and quantified by qPCR

using Applied Biosystems TaqMan Universal PCR Master Mix (Applied Biosystems) in a

QuantStudio 5 qPCR System (Applied Biosystems). Relative cDNA quantities were

determined using the ΔΔCt method. The primer-probe set for these experiments are in

the 3' end of *gag* and are reported in the STAR methods table.

RNA Immunoprecipitation

HeLa CRISPR Control/TRIM25/KHNYN cells[40] were plated in 6-well plates and

transfected using TransIT-LT1 transfection reagent with 500 ng of HIV-WT or HIV-CpG

proviral DNA, and medium was replaced 4-6 hours later. 48 hours post-transfection cells

were washed with PBS prior to UVC crosslinking (254nm) with 400mJ/cm2 using a UV

Stratalinker 2400 (Stratagene). Cells were then pelleted, lysed with RIPA buffer (50mM

Tris-HCl pH 7.4; 150mM NaCl; 0.1% SDS; 0.5% sodium deoxycholate, 1% Nonidet P 40

substitute and protease inhibitors) and then sonicated. Cleared lysates were

immunoprecipitated overnight at 4°C with anti-ZAP antibody (Abcam) and Dynabeads

protein G (Invitrogen). Following 3 washes with RIPA buffer, beads were resuspended in

100 μl of RIPA and boiled for 10min to decouple protein/RNA complexes from the beads.

Finally, input and pulldown samples were incubated with proteinase K (Thermo Fisher)

for 1 hr at 37°C, and then boiled for 10 minutes to inactivate the enzyme. Samples were

stored at -20°C for downstream RNA extraction and qRT-PCR analysis.

RNA from the input and pulldown samples was extracted using QIAzol (QIAGEN). cDNA

synthesis was performed using the High-Capacity cDNA RT kit as described above. Of the

final reaction, 5 µl were subjected to qPCR using the primer/probe sets for human

GAPDH and HIV-1 genomic RNA reported in the STAR methods table. Serial dilutions of

HIV-WT proviral DNA were used in standard curves as calibrator for quantification of HIV-

1 RNA copies in the pull-down fractions.

AP-1 reporter assay

One day prior to transfection, HEK293T cells were seeded in a 24-well plate at a density

of $2x10^5$ cells per well. Approximately 8 h later, cells were treated with 50 ng/mL phorbol

12-myristate 13-acetate (PMA; Peprotech) and incubated overnight. The following day,

cells were transfected with a DNA mix containing 85 ng of the AP-1 firefly luciferase

reporter plasmid[116] and 15 ng of the Renilla luciferase control plasmid (pGL4.74

hRluc/TK; Promega cat. #E6921) using 1 µL Lipofectamine 2000 (Invitrogen). Cells were

incubated for 24 h and then lysed in 1x Passive Lysis Buffer (Promega). Dual-Luciferase

Reporter Assay (Promega) was performed according to the manufacturer's instructions,

and luminescence was measured using a VICTOR X3 microplate reader (Perkin Elmer).

Data was normalized as fold-change (ZAP knockout over control) by calculating the ratio

of firefly to Renilla luminescence, with values from the control cell line set to 1.

Immunofluorescence and RNA FISH

Cells were seeded on poly-L-lysine coated plates and infected with HIV-WT or HIV-CpG (MOI=1) then fixed in 3.7% (vol./vol.) formaldehyde at 24hpi. Cells were first immunostained for ZAP and the ER marker RTN4, then hybridized with Stellaris probes targeting unspliced HIV RNA (add ref https://doi.org/10.7554/eLife.62470) using Stellaris FISH buffers following the Stellaris protocol for sequential immunofluorescence (IF) + Stellaris RNA FISH in adherent cells (Biosearch Technologies). Images were acquired using a Nikon AXR NSPARC microscope at the Nikon Imaging Centre, King's College London.

ZAP and KHNYN iCLIP

Cells were infected at MOI=3 and media was replaced 18 h post-infection with DMEM supplemented with 2% fetal bovine serum. At 48 hours post-infection, cells were washed with ice-cold PBS, irradiated once with 150 mJ/cm2 in a Stratalinker 2400 at 254 nm, harvested by scraping in PBS, pelleted by centrifugation then resuspended in lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4; 100 mM NaCl; 1% Igepal CA-630; 0.1% SDS; 0.5% sodium deoxycholate; protease inhibitor) and stored at -80°C until use.

Individual cross-linking and immunoprecipitation (iCLIP) was performed according to the previously published protocol[117], with the following details. For ZAP iCLIP, 4 µg of anti-ZAP antibody (GeneTex, GTX120134) was used for immunoprecipitation per sample. For the KHNYN KO, TRIM25 KO and ZAP-L KO samples, the membrane was cut above 110 kDa. In the ZAP-S KO experiments, the membrane was cut from 130 kDa upwards. For KHNYN-GFP iCLIP, 4 µg anti-GFP antibody (Roche, ref. 11814460001) was used for

immunoprecipitation per sample. The membrane was cut from 130 kDa upwards. RNA-

seq libraries were sequenced by Novogene as paired-end 150 bp reads on Illumina

Novaseq 6000. Each iCLIP experiment was performed with three biological replicates.

iCLIP data processing

Reads were mapped to the human GRCh38.p13 genome build with GENCODE v38

annotation. The HIV-WT or HIV-CpG, genome and annotation were merged with the

human genome build and annotation files. Biological replicates were first analyzed

individually to assess variability (standard deviation), after which the reads were pooled

for all subsequent analyses. Pair-end reads were pre-processed using a custom script

written in Bash. Briefly, the unique molecular identifiers (UMIs) were extracted using

UMI-tools extract[118] (https://github.com/CGATOxford/UMI-tools,*--extract-*

method=regex) and the paired-end reads merged with *BBTools' BBMerge*[119]

(https://sourceforge.net/projects/bbmap/, *mininsert=0, minoverlap=5*). The processed

reads were analyzed according to the standardized iCLIP workflow with the *nf-*

core/clipseq v1.0.0 pipeline[120,121] (https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4723017), which was

run with *Nextflow v22.10.0*[122] and the following parameters: *--deduplicate true, --*

smrna_org human, --peakcaller paraclu[123]. In addition, the crosslink BED files generated

during the iCLIP analysis were used to call peaks on the HIV-1 genome with *Clippy v1.5.0*

tool (https://github.com/ulelab/clippy). The following parameters were used: *--*

window_size 100, --min_prom_adjust 1, --min_height_adjust 1.5, --min_gene_counts 20,

--min_peak_counts 5.

To account for the variability in library size and RNA abundance across experiments, the

crosslink signal was normalized in two steps. First, crosslink counts were scaled to

counts per million (CPM) using the *clipplotr v1.0.0* command-line tool[124]

(https://github.com/ulelab/clipplotr) to adjust for differences in library size. Second, to

control for variations in HIV-1 or cellular RNA abundance between samples, CPM-

normalized crosslink counts were further adjusted using mean HIV-1 or specific cellular

RNA abundance values, calculated from the DESeq2 normalized RNA-seq data across

all three biological replicates. The standard error of the mean, shown as the error band

on the iCLIP plots, was calculated from the standard deviation of three biological

replicates. The data was smoothed using a rolling mean of 100.

Clippy (https://github.com/ulelab/clippy) was used for peak calling with rollmean100,

minHeightAdjust1.5, minPromAdjust1, minGeneCount20, peakWidth0.9, and ≥ 0.25

crosslinks/nucleotide. For quantification of signal with specified peaks for HIV-WT or

HIV-CpG in Figure S1H-I, the normalized crosslink data was summed for the peaks

defined by Clippy for HIV-CpG in HEK293T cells (Peak 1 = nt 304-557, Peak 2 = nt 5650-

6438 and Peak 3 = nt 7631-8443). For Figure S6C, the Clippy peaks for HIV-CpG in HeLa

CRISPR control cells (Peak 1 = nt 258-535, Peak 2 = nt 5531-6497, Peak 3 = nt 7615-8454)

were used to quantify the normalized crosslink data.

RNA-seq

RNA was extracted using the Direct-zol RNA Miniprep Plus Kit (Zymo Pure) from cells

grown and infected in the same conditions as the iCLIP experiments. Poly(A)+ RNA library

preparation and sequencing were performed by GENEWIZ. Sequencing reads were

processed using the *nf-core/rnaseq v3.17.0* pipeline[120]

(https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13986791) run on *Nextflow v24.04.2*[122] with default

parameters. Differentially expressed genes were identified with DESeq2 using the *nf-*

core/differentialabundance v1.2.0 pipeline (https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7846648).

To account for transcript length bias, the analysis utilized the raw gene count matrix

(salmon.merged.gene_counts.tsv) and transcript length matrix

(salmon.merged.gene_lengths.tsv) generated by the *nf-core/rnaseq* pipeline. The

pipeline was run with *Nextflow v24.04.2*[122] using default settings. Differentially expressed

genes were defined as adjusted p <0.05 and a basemean >500. In addition, ZAP-L

regulated genes were defined by log2FC ZAP-L KO / HEK293T cells >0.5 and log2FC ZAP-

L KO / ZAP-S KO cells >0.5. ZAP-S regulated genes were defined by log2FC ZAP-S KO /

HEK293T cells >0.5 and log2FC ZAP-S KO / ZAP-L KO cells >0.5. ZAP, TRIM25 and KHNYN

co-upregulated genes were defined by basemean >500, adjusted p <0.05 and log2FC >

0. SignalP 6.0[125] was used to determine if any transcript encoded by ZAP-L or ZAP-S

regulated genes in the GENCODE human basic gene annotation CHR was predicted to

encode a signal peptide. The presence of transmembrane domains in specific genes was

determined using information in the Localization section of GeneCards[126].

Gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) was performed using the R package clusterProfiler

v4.12.6[127] and human gene sets from the 50 Hallmark pathways obtained using the

package msigdbr v7.5.1 (https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=msigdbr). GO

enrichment analysis was performed using the DAVID Functional Annotation Tool with

Gene Ontology Biological Process, Cellular Component, and Molecular Function Direct

terms. The background included all genes with baseMean >500 in HEK293T CRISPR or

HeLa CRISPR RNA-seq datasets. Only annotation terms with more than five genes were

considered, and significant terms were defined as those with FDR <0.05. Gene

expression relationships between different sample sets were analyzed and visualized

using the R packages VennDiagram v1.7.3[128] and eulerr v7.0.2 (https://CRAN.R-

project.org/package=eulerr).   The   packages   ggplot2   v3.5.1

(https://ggplot2.tidyverse.org)   and   pheatmap   v1.0.12

(https://github.com/raivokolde/pheatmap) were used to create heat maps of gene

expression.

5' and 3' RACE-seq

Total RNA was extracted using the Direct-zol RNA Miniprep Plus Kit. The 5' RACE was

performed from 1 µg total RNA using the SMARTer RACE 5'/3' Kit according to the

manufacturer's instructions. To make cleaved RNA compatible with the 3' RACE cDNA

synthesis step, the total RNA was poly(A) tailed using *E. coli* Poly(A) polymerase (NEB)

and then purified with the Monarch Spin RNA Cleanup Kit (NEB). The 3' RACE was

performed from 500 ng purified poly(A) tailed RNA using the SMARTer RACE 5'/3' Kit

according to the manufacturer's instructions. The HIV specific primers used for 5' and 3'

RACE are reported in the STAR methods table. RACE sequencing libraries were prepared

using the Native Barcoding Kit 24 V14 (Oxford Nanopore Technologies). Sequencing of 5'

RACE product libraries was performed on R10.4.1 flowcells (FLO-MIN114, Oxford

Nanopore, UK). 3' RACE sequencing libraries were sequenced on PromethION with

R10.4.1 flowcells.

For the 5' RACE-seq, basecalling of *FAST5* files for the first replicate was completed using

guppy_basecaller (v6.4.6). Dorado (v0.5.1) was used to basecall *POD5* files generated

from 5' RACE-seq replicates 2 and 3 as well as the 3' RACE-seq replicates. Reads were

basecalled and demultiplexed using the Super High Accuracy (SUP) model (v4.3.0).

Additional command-line arguments were implemented to ensure that only reads with

identical nanopore barcodes at both ends were considered, as well as excluding any

reads containing barcodes in the middle. Bash scripts submitted to KCL's CREATE HPC

for basecalling are available on Github (5' RACE-seq: https://github.com/Tycour/HIV1-

ZAP_RACEseq; 3' RACE-seq: https://github.com/GregaGD/ZAP_HIV-1_3-prime_RACE-

seq), along with the bash scripts and custom Python and R scripts used in the

downstream analysis.

Following basecalling, the FASTQ files were filtered with *NanoFilt v2.8.0*[129] to eliminate

low-quality reads and retain reads with an average quality score > Q20. The quality

metrics of the filtered reads were evaluated using *NanoPlot v1.42.0*[129]. A custom Python

script was implemented to identify and retain reads containing primer sequences at both

ends that were used in the RACE reaction. For the 5' RACE reaction, the 5' primer was

CTCACTATAGGGCAAGCAGTGGTATCAACGCAGAGTACATGGG and the 3' primer was

CCAGCAGCAGATGGGGTGGGAGCAGTAT. For the 3' RACE reaction, the 5' primer was

TGGTGGGCGGGGATCAAGCAGGAATTTGGC   and   the   3'   primer   was

GTACTCTGCGTTGATACCACTGCTTGCCCTATAGTGAG. Reads without internal primer

sequences were filtered out to ensure specificity in the downstream analysis.

Based on the infection conditions, the processed reads were aligned to either the HIV-

WT or the HIV-CpG reference genome using *Minimap2[130,131] v2.17-r941*, with the splice-

aware argument (*--splice*). The alignment files in SAM format were converted to a sorted

and indexed BAM format using *samtools (v1.10 or* v1.19). Each read was oriented to the

leading or lagging strand using a custom Python script to facilitate downstream

processing.

Bedtools (v2.31.1) converted the *BAM* file containing deduplicated reads to *BED* format.

For the 5' RACE-seq, an *awk* (v20200816) command was employed to extract the 5' start

positions for reads. These positions were then analyzed using a custom script that maps

and plots the distribution of read starts along the reference genome. To examine the

cleavage sites and detect non-templated nucleotides for the 3' RACE-seq, the alignment

files in BAM format were analyzed using a custom R script. Using the *GenomicAlignments*

(Lawrence et al., 2013) and *Biostrings* (https://bioconductor.org/packages/Biostrings)

packages, the final mapped position of the read was determined by parsing the CIGAR

string. Specifically, the last mapped segment was extracted from the CIGAR string and

the corresponding 3' end nucleotide position was recorded. This was used in later steps

to determine if any nucleotides beyond the mapped part of the read were non-templated.

Similarly,   the   *GenomicAlignments[132]*   and   *Biostrings*

(https://bioconductor.org/packages/Biostrings)   packages   were   used   to   identify

stretches of poly(A) nucleotides added during the 3' RACE protocol. The 3' end soft-

clipped segment of the read was extracted based on the CIGAR string and analyzed to

detect poly(A) segments of at least 15 consecutive adenosines, allowing up to two

mismatches. The position of the poly(A) start in the read sequence was recorded and

only reads with recognized poly(A) segments were selected for downstream analysis. The

non-templated nucleotides were defined as the sequence between the final mapped

position and the start of the poly(A) sequence in each read. The length distribution and

nucleotide composition of these regions were analyzed, and the length distribution was

visualized with bar charts, while the nucleotide composition per sequence length was

visualized with stacked bar charts. The package *ggplot2 v3.5.1*

(https://ggplot2.tidyverse.org) was used to generate all charts.

Statistics

Unless otherwise stated, data are represented as mean ± standard deviation and

statistical significance was determined by one-way ANOVA or unpaired t test from log-

transformed data using GraphPad Prism10 (GraphPad Software Inc.). Significance was

ascribed to p values < 0.05 compared to control conditions.

RESOURCE AVAILABILITY

Lead Contact

Additional information and resource requests will be fulfilled by the lead contact, Chad

M. Swanson (chad.swanson@kcl.ac.uk).

Materials availability

No new reagents were generated in this study.

Data and code availability

• The poly(A) RNA-seq, iCLIP-seq and RACE-seq data reported in this paper are

available at ArrayExpress (E-MTAB-15071, E-MTAB-15072, E-MTAB-15077, E-

MTAB-15065, E-MTAB-15056, E-MTAB-15061, E-MTAB-15060, E-MTAB-15095, E-

MTAB-15064, E-MTAB-15097). These data are publicly available as of the date of

publication.

• All original code has been deposited at Zenodo and is publicly available at

https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18832411

and https://zenodo.org/records/18839080 as of the date of publication. Other

custom analysis scripts are available upon request.

• Any additional information required to reanalyse the data reported in this paper is

available from the lead contact upon request.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Conceptualization: C.M.S, S.J.D.N, J.U; Software: A.M.C.; Formal analysis: C.B., G.G.D.,

M.J.L, R.P.G, T.C., P.K., H.W., P.H., H.M., A.M.C., Investigation: C.B., G.G.D., M.J.L., R.P.G,

P.K., H.W.; Writing - Original Draft: C.M.S, C.B., G.G.D., Writing - Review & Editing: all

authors; Visualization: C.B., G.G.D, M.J.L, R.P.G., P.K., T.C.; Supervision: J.U., S.J.D.N,

C.M.S.; Funding acquisition: M.P., J.U., S.J.D.N., C.M.S.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The authors declare no competing interests.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank members of the Ule, Neil and Swanson laboratories for helpful discussions.

The following reagents were obtained through the NIH AIDS Research and Reference

Reagent Program, Division of AIDS, NIAID, NIH: TZM-bl from Dr. John C. Kappes, Dr.

Xiaoyun Wu and Tranzyme Inc; HIV-1 p24 Hybridoma (183-H12-5C) from Dr. Bruce

Chesebro. The Antiserum to HIV-1 gp120 #20 (ARP421) was obtained from the NIBSC

Centre for AIDS Reagents. We thank Xavier Roca for the ZAP-L and ZAP-S knockout cells.

We also thank Rebecca Sumner for the AP-1 reporter plasmid. We gratefully acknowledge

the support of King's Genomics, Social Genetic & Development Psychiatry Centre,

Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience, King's College London for the Oxford

Nanopore Technologies PromethION sequencing and the HPC CREATE at King's College

London. We also thank the Nikon Imaging Centre at Kings College London for help with

light microscopy. These studies were funded by Medical Research Council grants

MR/S000844/1 and MR/W018519/1 to SJDN and CMS, Wellcome Early Career Award

(225081/Z/22/Z) to AMC, Sir Henry Dale Fellowship from the Wellcome Trust and the

Royal Society (218537/Z/19/Z) to HEM, Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellowship

(WT098049AIA) to SJDN, the European Research Council (ERC) under the European

Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement No 835300)

to JU, and Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency ARIS grant P3-00083 to MP and

GGD. The Slovenian Research Agency financially supported GGD through the Young

Researcher Training Program for four years (2021–2025; contract number 802-7/2021-1).

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1443

FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure 1: ZAP isoforms differ in their activity to restrict HIV-CpG and interact with

KHNYN and viral RNA.

(A) Schematic representation of the exonucleolytic model for ZMD. Created in BioRender.

Bouton, C. (2025) https://BioRender.com/b8wrgls

(B) Schematic representation of the endonucleolytic model for ZMD. Created in

BioRender. Bouton, C. (2025) https://BioRender.com/lpjkyv4

(C) Schematic representation of ZAP's main isoforms, ZAP-L and ZAP-S. ZnF: zinc finger.

ART-like: ADP-ribosyltransferase-like domain. CaaX: CaaX box that mediates S-

farnesylation.

(D) Genomic organization and localization of CpG dinucleotides of HIV-WT and HIV-CpG.

(E) Relative infectious HIV production (left) in HEK293T CRISPR control and ZAP cells, and

HIV-CpG production expressed as % infectious HIV-WT production (right). Error bars

represent standard deviation. *p <0.05 calculated by one-way ANOVA on log-

transformed data, compared to HIV-CpG production in HEK293T CRISPR control cells.

(F) Immunoblotting of uninfected isoform-specific HEK293T CRISPR ZAP cells.

(G) Infectious HIV-CpG production, expressed as % infectious HIV-WT production, in

isoform-specific HEK293T CRISPR ZAP cells. Error bars represent standard deviation. *p

<0.05 calculated by one-way ANOVA on log-transformed data, compared to HIV-CpG

production in HEK293T cells.

(H) Immunoblotting of ZAP coimmunoprecipitations and corresponding input lysates

obtained from isoform-specific HEK293T CRISPR ZAP cells at steady state level. The

blots are representative of three biological replicates.

(I) Normalized ZAP iCLIP signal mapped to HIV-CpG gRNA in isoform-specific HEK293T

CRISPR ZAP cells. The average signal of three independent experiments and the SEM

(shading) are plotted. Localization of CpG dinucleotides on HIV-CpG gRNA are indicated

by vertical bars. Pink bars represent the 36 added CpG dinucleotides in HIV-CpG.

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Figure 2: ZAP-L and ZAP-S bind different CpG-rich motifs and target different cellular

transcripts.

(A) Heatmap for the top 10 PEKA motifs from ZAP-S knockout or ZAP-L knockout cell iCLIP

experiments shown for HEK293T, ZAP-S knockout and ZAP-L knockout cells.

(B) Normalized DESeq2 counts for TNFRSF10D from poly(A) RNA-seq in HEK293T, ZAP-L

and ZAP-S knockout cells. Error bars represent standard deviation. *adjp <0.05

calculated by DESeq2, compared to HEK293T cells.

(C) Normalized DESeq2 counts for JUN from poly(A) RNA-seq in HEK293T, ZAP-L and ZAP-

S knockout cells. Error bars represent standard deviation. *adjp <0.05 calculated by

DESeq2, compared to HEK293T cells.

(D) Normalized AP-1 reporter activity in HEK293T, ZAP-L and ZAP-S knockout cells. Error bars represent standard deviation. *p <0.05 calculated by one-way ANOVA on log-transformed data, compared to HEK293T cells.

(E) % of genes specifically regulated by ZAP-L or ZAP-S predicted to contain a signal peptide by SignalP - 6.0[125].

(F) Normalized crosslink signal for ZAP iCLIP on TNFRSF10D in HEK293T, ZAP-L KO and ZAP-S KO cells. The average signal of three independent experiments and the SEM (shading) are plotted. The start and stop codon locations are indicated in pink.

Figure 3: HIV-1 infection promotes the interaction between TRIM25 and KHNYN.

(A) Immunoblotting of ZAP coimmunoprecipitations and corresponding input lysates obtained from infected HeLa cells. Samples were treated with RNase I after pulldown and PABPC1 is a control to indicate that the RNase I treatment reduced RNA-dependent interactions. The blots are representative of three biological replicates.

(B) Immunoblotting of TRIM25 coimmunoprecipitations and corresponding input lysates obtained from infected HeLa cells. Samples were treated with RNase I after pulldown. Note that the experiment shown here was performed alongside the experiment shown in Figure 5E, thus the input blots for TRIM25, PABPC1, GAPDH, and gp160/gp120 and pulldown blots for TRIM25 and PABPC1 are identical between the two figures. The blots are representative of three biological replicates.

(C) Immunoblotting of ZAP coimmunoprecipitations and corresponding input lysates obtained from infected Control and TRIM25 CRISPR HeLa cells. Samples were treated with RNase I after pulldown. Note that the experiment shown here was performed alongside the experiment shown in Figure S9I, thus the input blots for PABPC1, TRIM25,

ZAP and GAPDH and pulldown blots for PABPC1, TRIM25 and ZAP are identical between the two panels. The blots are representative of three biological replicates.

(D-E) Hallmark gene set enrichment plot of differentially expressed genes in HIV-WT **(D)** or HIV-CpG **(E)** infected HeLa CRISPR control cells. Black dots are non-significant, blue and pink dots are significant. Pink dots show functional groups highlighted in the text.

Figure 4: HIV-1 infection increases the number of cellular genes that are co-upregulated by ZAP, TRIM25, and KHNYN.

(A) Heat map indicating differentially expressed genes that are co-upregulated in ZAP, TRIM25 and KHNYN CRISPR cells compared to CRISPR Control cells in mock, HIV-WT or HIV-CpG infected cells.

(B) Number of genes co-upregulated by ZAP, TRIM25 and KHNYN in mock, HIV-WT and HIV-CpG infected cells.

(C) GO analysis for ZAP, TRIM25 and KHNYN co-regulated genes with FDR <0.1 in HIV-WT infected cells.

(D) Normalized DESeq2 counts for ZMAT3 from poly(A) RNA-seq in mock or HIV-WT infected Control, ZAP, TRIM25 or KHNYN CRISPR cells. Error bars represent standard deviation. *adjp <0.05 calculated by DESeq2, compared to Control CRISPR cells.

(E) Normalized ZAP iCLIP signal mapped to ZMAT3 in HIV-WT infected Control CRISPR cells. The average signal of three independent experiments and the SEM (shading) are plotted. Exon tracks represent the isoforms expressed >1% of total normalized DESeq2 counts. The start and stop codon locations are indicated in pink.

(F) Normalized DESeq2 counts for HSPB8 from poly(A) RNA-seq in mock or HIV-WT

infected Control, ZAP, TRIM25 or KHNYN CRISPR cells. Error bars represent standard

deviation. *adjp <0.05 calculated by DESeq2, compared to Control CRISPR cells.

(G) Normalized ZAP iCLIP signal mapped to HSPB8 in HIV-WT infected Control CRISPR

cells. The average signal of three independent experiments and the SEM (shading) are

plotted. Exon tracks represent the isoforms expressed >1% of total normalized DESeq2

counts. The start and stop codon locations are indicated in pink.

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Figure 5: Degradation of HIV-CpG 3' cleavage fragment by XRN1.

(A) KHNYN iCLIP signal mapped to HIV-CpG gRNA in HeLa CRISPR KHNYN + GFP and

HeLa CRISPR KHNYN + CRISPR-resistant KHNYN-GFP. The average signal of three

independent experiments and the SEM (shading) are plotted.

(B) Genomic organization of HIV-WT and HIV-CpG and localization of CpG dinucleotides.

The qRT-PCR probe used to quantify the 3' cleavage fragment (probe 2 (p2)), and the HIV

specific primer used for the 5' RACE (5'R) are shown.

(C) Level of HIV-CpG 3' cleavage fragment measured by qRT-PCR in cells transfected with

siRNA targeting XRN1. Results are expressed as % 3' cleavage fragment in HIV-WT

infected cells. The dotted line represents the level of 3' cleavage fragment in cells treated

with a non-targeting siRNA control. Error bars represent standard deviation. *p <0.05

calculated by one-way ANOVA on log-transformed data, compared to the level of 3'

cleavage fragment in cells treated with a non-targeting siRNA control.

(D) Immunoblotting of ZAP coimmunoprecipitations and corresponding input lysates

obtained from infected HeLa cells. Samples were treated with RNase I after pulldown.

The blots are representative of three biological replicates.

(E) Immunoblotting of TRIM25 coimmunoprecipitations and corresponding input lysates obtained from infected HeLa cells. Samples were treated with RNase I after pulldown. Note that the experiment shown here was performed alongside the experiment shown in Figure 3B, thus the input blots for gp160/gp120, PABPC1, TRIM25, and GAPDH and the pulldown blots for PABPC1 and TRIM25 are identical between the two figures. The blots are representative of three biological replicates.

(F) Agarose gel electrophoresis of 5' RACE reactions. Sizes in kilobases are indicated on the left.

(G) 5' RACE DNA was sequenced by long-read sequencing and the 5' end of each molecule was identified and mapped onto HIV gRNA. The number of 5' end at every position was determined and compared between experimental conditions. iCLIP signals for ZAP (from Figure S6B) and KHNYN (from panel A) are shown for reference.

Figure 6: HIV-CpG 5' cleavage fragment abundance is regulated by TUT4/TUT7 and DIS3L2.

(A) Agarose gel electrophoresis of 3' RACE reactions. Sizes in kilobases are indicated on the left.

(B) Non-templated nucleotides are found in the 3' end of HIV-CpG 5' cleavage fragments amplified by 3' RACE and determined by Sanger sequencing. The 3' end positions shown here all fall within the CpG-enriched region of HIV-CpG.

(C) Level of HIV-CpG 5' cleavage fragment measured by qRT-PCR in cells transfected with siRNA targeting TUTs and DIS3L2. Results are expressed as % 5' cleavage fragment in HIV-WT infected cells. The dotted line represents the level of 5' cleavage fragment in cells treated with a non-targeting siRNA control. Error bars represent standard deviation. *p

<0.05 calculated by one-way ANOVA on log-transformed data, compared to the level of

5' cleavage fragment in cells treated with a non-targeting siRNA control.

(D) 3' RACE DNA was sequenced by long-read sequencing and the 3' end of each

molecule was identified and mapped onto HIV gRNA. The number of 3' end at every

position was determined and compared between experimental conditions. iCLIP signals

for ZAP (from Figure S6B) and KHNYN (from Figure 5A) are shown for reference.

(E) The sequence and length of non-templated nucleotides was extracted for every

sequenced 3' end in HIV-CpG infected cells transfected with siRNA control or siRNA

targeting ZAP or DIS3L2.

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Figure 7: Model of the ZAP-mediated RNA decay

A ZAP-L-TRIM25-KHNYN complex assembles on clustered CpG dinucleotides. This leads

to RNA cleavage by KHNYN. The 3' cleavage fragment is then degraded by the 5'-3'

exonuclease XRN1, while the 5' cleavage fragment is uridylated by TUT4/7 and then

degraded by the 3'-5' exonuclease DIS3L2. ZAP interacts with each component of the

complex. Created in BioRender. Bouton, C. (2025) https://BioRender.com/f8zm1lm

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SUPPLEMENTAL FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure S1: ZAP isoforms differ in their activity and their interaction with viral RNA,

related to Figure 1.

(A) Relative infectious virus production in isoform-specific HEK293T CRISPR ZAP cells.

The dotted line represents HIV-CpG production in HEK293T cells. Error bars represent

standard deviation.

(B) Immunoblotting of cell lysates and virions from HIV-WT- or HIV-CpG-infected isoform-specific HEK293T CRISPR ZAP cells.

(C) Quantification of KHNYN and TRIM25 abundance in the ZAP PULL-DOWN immunoblot from panel 1H. The signal was normalized ZAP abundance in the ZAP PULL-DOWN samples. Error bars represent standard deviation. $*p < 0.05$ calculated by one-way ANOVA on log-transformed data, compared to HEK293T cells.

(D-F) Normalized ZAP iCLIP signal mapped to HIV gRNA in HEK293T cells **(D)**, HEK293T ZAP-L KO **(E)** and HEK293T ZAP-S KO **(F)**. The average of three independent experiments and the SEM (shading) are plotted.

(G) ZAP binding peaks on HIV-CpG RNA in 293T cells. Peaks were called by Clippy and their width are indicated.

(H) Quantification of normalized crosslink signal in Peak1 and Peak 3 for Figure S1D. Error bars represent standard deviation. $*p < 0.05$ calculated by unpaired t test on log-transformed data, compared to HIV-WT.

(I) Quantification of normalized crosslink signal in Peak1, Peak 2 and Peak 3 for Figure 1I. Error bars represent standard deviation. $*p < 0.05$ calculated by unpaired t test on log-transformed data, compared to 293T cells.

Figure S2: ZAP-L and ZAP-S bind different motifs, target different cellular transcripts and have differential subcellular localization that is not affected by HIV-CpG infection, related to Figure 2.

(A) UpA + CpG motifs ranked in the top 15 from the ZAP iCLIP experiments in ZAP-S knockout cells and their corresponding rank in HEK293T and ZAP-L KO cells.

(B) GO analysis for ZAP-L regulated genes with FDR <0.1 in HIV-WT infected cells. The FDR

for the same terms for ZAP-S regulated genes are shown.

(C) GO analysis for ZAP-S regulated genes with FDR <0.1 in HIV-WT infected cells. The

FDR for the same terms for ZAP-L regulated genes are shown.

(D-F) Normalized DESeq2 counts for JUNB **(D)**, JUND **(C)** and FOS **(F)** from poly(A) RNA-

seq in HEK293T, ZAP-L and ZAP-S knockout cells. Error bars represent standard deviation.

*adjp <0.05 calculated by DESeq2, compared to HEK293T cells.

(G) ZAP, ER (RTN4) and HIV-1 genomic RNA localization in mock or HIV-CpG infected

HEK293T, ZAP-L KO or ZAP-S KO cells detected using indirect immunofluorescence for

ZAP and RTN4 (an ER resident protein) plus RNA FISH for HIV-1 genomic RNA.

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1633 **Figure S3: ZAP binding peaks in TNFRSF10D have interspersed UpA and CpG**

1634 **dinucleotides, related to Figure 2.** ZAP binding peaks in TNFRSF10D identified in ZAP-S

1635 knockout cells using clippy. UpA dinucleotides are highlighted in yellow, CpG

1636 dinucleotides are highlighted in blue and UACG motifs are highlighted in green.

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Figure S4: HIV-1 infection increases the number of ZAP, TRIM25 or KHNYN-regulated

genes, related to Figure 3 and 4.

(A) Quantification of KHNYN abundance in the TRIM25 PULL-DOWN immunoblot from

panel 3B. The signal was normalized to TRIM25 abundance in the TRIM25 PULL-DOWN

samples. Error bars represent standard deviation.

(B) Heat map indicating differentially expressed genes that are upregulated in ZAP,

TRIM25 or KHNYN CRISPR cells compared to CRISPR control cells in mock, HIV-WT or

HIV-CpG infected cells.

(C) Number of upregulated genes in ZAP, KHNYN or TRIM25 knockout cells compared to CRISPR control cells in mock, HIV-WT or HIV-CpG infected cells.

(D) Euler diagrams showing differentially expressed genes that are upregulated in ZAP, TRIM25 or KHNYN CRISPR cells compared to CRISPR control cells in mock, HIV-WT or HIV-CpG infected cells.

Figure S5: ZAP, TRIM25 and KHNYN co-regulate a subset of genes downregulated by HIV-1 infection and ZAP-L mRNA, related to Figure 4.

(A) Euler diagram showing differentially expressed genes that are upregulated in ZAP, TRIM25 or KHNYN CRISPR cells compared to CRISPR control cells in mock, HIV-WT or HIV-CpG infected cells and downregulated by HIV-WT infection.

(B) Normalized DESeq2 counts for DIO2 from poly(A) RNA-seq in mock or HIV-WT infected Control, ZAP, TRIM25 or KHNYN knockout cells. Error bars represent standard deviation. *adjp <0.05 calculated by DESeq2, comparing HIV-WT infected Control CRISPR cells to mock infected Control CRISPR cells. *adjp <0.05 calculated by DESeq2, comparing HIV-WT infected ZAP, TRIM25 or KHNYN CRISPR cells to HIV-WT infected Control CRISPR cells.

(C) Normalized ZAP iCLIP signal mapped to DIO2 in HIV-WT infected Control CRISPR cells. The average signal of three independent experiments and the SEM (shading) are plotted. Exon tracks represent the isoforms expressed >1% of total normalized DESeq2 counts. The start and stop codon locations are indicated in pink.

(D-E) Normalized ZAP iCLIP signal mapped to ZAP-L **(D)** or ZAP-S **(E)** mRNA in HIV-WT infected Control CRISPR cells. The average signal of three independent experiments and the SEM (shading) are plotted. The normalized ZAP crosslink signal was distributed to

ZAP-L or ZAP-S based on the isoform's normalized DESeq2 count. Exons are indicated in

grey and start and stop codon locations are in pink.

(F) Immunoblotting of mock, HIV-WT and HIV-CpG infected Control, ZAP, TRIM25 or

KHNYN CRISPR cells.

(G) Relative infectious HIV-1 production (left) in Control, ZAP, TRIM25 and KHNYN

CRISPR cells, and HIV-CpG production expressed as % infectious HIV-WT production

(right). Error bars represent standard deviation. *$p < 0.05$ calculated by one-way ANOVA

on log-transformed data, compared to HIV-CpG production in Control CRISPR control

cells.

(H) Normalized DESeq2 counts for ZAP-L mRNA from poly(A) RNA-seq in mock or HIV-WT

infected Control, ZAP, TRIM25 or KHNYN knockout cells. Error bars represent standard

deviation. *adjp < 0.05 calculated by DESeq2, compared to Control CRISPR cells.

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Figure S6: TRIM25 modulates ZAP binding to HIV-CpG RNA but does not alter its

target specificity, related to Figure 4.

(A) Relative levels of ZAP-associated HIV-1 gRNA measured by qRT-PCR in HeLa Control

CRISPR (left) and TRIM25 CRISPR (right) cells transfected with proviral DNA. Error bars

represent standard deviation. *$p < 0.05$ calculated by unpaired two-tailed t test,

compared to ZAP-associated HIV-WT gRNA.

(B) ZAP iCLIP signal mapped to HIV-CpG gRNA in HeLa CRISPR TRIM25 and control. The

average signal of three independent experiments and the SEM (shading) are plotted.

(C) Quantification of normalized crosslink signal in Peak1, Peak 2 and Peak 3 for Figure

S6B. Error bars represent standard deviation. *$p < 0.05$ calculated by unpaired t test on

log-transformed data, compared to HIV-WT.

(D) MA plot showing genes with differential iCLIP read abundance in HIV-WT infected TRIM25 CRISPR cells compared to Control CRISPR cells.

(E) Normalized ZAP iCLIP signal mapped to ZAP in HIV-WT infected Control CRISPR cells. The average signal of three independent experiments and the SEM (shading) are plotted. Exon for ZAP-L and ZAP-S mRNAs are represented in grey and the start and stop codon locations are in pink.

(F) Heatmap showing the top 15 PEKA motifs from ZAP iCLIP experiments in CRISPR control cells and their relative rank in TRIM25 CRISPR cells.

(G) Euler diagram of genes encoding transcripts with ZAP peaks in HIV-WT infected CRISPR control and TRIM25 knockout cells.

Figure S7: Depletion of CNOT1, PARN, EXOSC3, EXOSC5, EXOSC7, DDX17, DHX30 or DCP2 does not affect HIV-CpG infectious virus production, related to Figure 5.

(A) Top 25 PEKA motifs for KHNYN iCLIP. CpG and UpA motifs are highlighted in red.

(B) Infectious HIV-CpG production, expressed as % infectious HIV-WT production in HeLa cells transfected with siRNA targeting ZAP, TRIM25 or KHNYN. The dotted line represents HIV-CpG production in cells transfected with a non-targeting control siRNA. Error bars represent standard deviation. *$p < 0.05$ calculated by one-way ANOVA on log-transformed data, compared to HIV-CpG production in cells treated with a non-targeting siRNA control.

(C-D) Infectious HIV-CpG production, expressed as % infectious HIV-WT production in HeLa cells transfected with siRNA targeting potential ZAP cofactors. The dotted line represents HIV-CpG production in cells transfected with a non-targeting control siRNA. Error bars represent standard deviation. *$p < 0.05$ calculated by one-way ANOVA on log-

transformed data, compared to HIV-CpG production in cells treated with a non-targeting siRNA control.

(E) Immunoblotting of HeLa cells transfected with siRNA targeting the genes in (B) and (C), then infected with HIV-WT.

(F-G) Level of HIV-CpG 3' cleavage fragment measured by qRT-PCR in cells transfected with siRNA targeting potential ZAP cofactors. Results are expressed as % 3' cleavage fragment in HIV-WT infected cells. The dotted line represents the level of 3' cleavage fragment in cells treated with a non-targeting siRNA control. Error bars represent standard deviation. *p <0.05 calculated by one-way ANOVA on log-transformed data, compared to the level of 3' cleavage fragment in cells treated with a non-targeting siRNA control.

(H) Quantification of XRN1 abundance in the TRIM25 PULL-DOWN immunoblot from panel 5E. The signal was normalized TRIM25 abundance in the TRIM25 PULL-DOWN samples. Error bars represent standard deviation.

(I) Immunoblotting of ZAP coimmunoprecipitations and corresponding input lysates obtained from infected Control and TRIM25 CRISPR HeLa cells. Samples were treated with RNase I after pulldown. Note that the experiment shown here was performed alongside the experiment shown in Figure S10G, thus the input blots for PABPC1, TRIM25, ZAP and GAPDH are identical between the two panels. The blots are representative of three biological replicates.

Figures S8: Clustered endonuclease cleavage sites correlate with high levels of ZAP binding, related to Figure 5

(A) Normalized ZAP crosslink signal (top panel), KHNYN crosslink signal (middle panel) and HIV-CpG / HIV-WT fold change in 5' end coverage in XRN1 knockout cells (bottom panel).

(B) HIV-CpG sequence nt 6000-6700. CpG is highlighted in blue, UpA is highlighted in yellow and UACG is highlighted in green. Cleavage sites are indicated by a red slash.

Figure S9: Depletion of CNOT1, PARN, EXOSC3, EXOSC5, EXOSC7, XRN1, DDX17, or DHX30 does not affect the abundance of the 5' HIV-CpG RNA cleavage fragment, related to Figure 6.

(A) Genomic organization of HIV-WT and HIV-CpG and localization of CpG dinucleotides. The qRT-PCR primer/probe set used to quantify the 5' cleavage fragment (probe 1 (p1)) and the HIV-specific primer used for the 3' RACE (3'R) are shown.

(B) Level of HIV-CpG 5' cleavage fragment measured by qRT-PCR in cells transfected with siRNA targeting potential ZAP cofactors. Results are expressed as % 5' cleavage fragment in HIV-WT infected cells. The dotted line represents the level of 5' cleavage fragment in cells treated with a non-targeting siRNA control. Error bars represent standard deviation. *$p < 0.05$ calculated by one-way ANOVA on log-transformed data, compared to the level of 3' cleavage fragment in cells treated with a non-targeting siRNA control.

(C) Immunoblotting of HeLa cells transfected with siRNA targeting TUT4 and TUT7 then infected with HIV-WT.

(D) Infectious HIV-CpG production, expressed as % infectious HIV-WT production in HeLa cells transfected with siRNA targeting TUTs. The dotted line represents HIV-CpG production in cells transfected with a non-targeting control siRNA. Error bars represent

standard deviation. *p <0.05 calculated by one-way ANOVA on log-transformed data,

compared to HIV-CpG production in cells treated with a non-targeting siRNA control.

(E) Level of HIV-CpG 3' cleavage fragment measured by qRT-PCR in cells transfected with

siRNA targeting TUTs. Results are expressed as % 3' cleavage fragment in HIV-WT infected

cells. The dotted line represents the level of 3' cleavage fragment in cells treated with a

non-targeting siRNA control. Error bars represent standard deviation. *p <0.05 calculated

by one-way ANOVA on log-transformed data, compared to the level of 3' cleavage

fragment in cells treated with a non-targeting siRNA control.

(F) Immunoblotting of ZAP coimmunoprecipitations and corresponding input lysates

obtained from infected HeLa cells. Samples were treated with RNase I after pulldown.

The blots are representative of three biological replicates.

(G) Immunoblotting of TRIM25 coimmunoprecipitations and corresponding input lysates

obtained from infected HeLa cells. Samples were treated with RNase I after pulldown.

The blots are representative of three biological replicates.

(H) Quantification of TUT7 abundance in the TRIM25 PULL-DOWN immunoblot from

panel S6G. The signal was normalized to TRIM25 abundance in the TRIM25 PULL-DOWN

samples. Error bars represent standard deviation. *p <0.05 calculated by one-way

ANOVA on log-transformed data.

(I) Immunoblotting of ZAP coimmunoprecipitations and corresponding input lysates

obtained from infected Control and TRIM25 CRISPR HeLa cells. Samples were treated

with RNase I after pulldown. Note that the experiment shown here was performed

alongside the experiment shown in Figure 3C, thus the input blots for PABPC1, TRIM25,

ZAP and GAPDH are identical between the two panels. The blots are representative of

three biological replicates.

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Figure S10: Depletion of DIS3L2 does not affect HIV-CpG infectious virus production

or abundance of the 3' cleavage fragment, related to Figure 6.

(A) Immunoblotting of HeLa cells transfected with siRNA targeting DIS3L2 then infected

with HIV-WT.

(B) Level of HIV-CpG 3' cleavage fragment measured by qRT-PCR in cells transfected with

siRNA targeting DIS3L2. Results are expressed as % 3' cleavage fragment in HIV-WT

infected cells. The dotted line represents the level of 3' cleavage fragment in cells treated

with a non-targeting siRNA control. Error bars represent standard deviation. *p <0.05

calculated by one-way ANOVA on log-transformed data, compared to the level of 5'

cleavage fragment in cells treated with a non-targeting siRNA control. This experiment

was performed alongside the experiment shown in figure S9E and therefore shared the

same control and ZAP values.

(C) Infectious HIV-CpG production, expressed as % infectious HIV-WT production in

HeLa cells transfected with siRNA targeting DIS3L2. The dotted line represents HIV-CpG

production in cells transfected with a non-targeting control siRNA. Error bars represent

standard deviation. *p <0.05 calculated by one-way ANOVA on log-transformed data,

compared to HIV-CpG production in cells treated with a non-targeting siRNA control. This

experiment was performed alongside the experiment shown in figure 9E and therefore

shared the same control and ZAP values.

(D) Immunoblotting of ZAP coimmunoprecipitations and corresponding input lysates

obtained from infected HeLa cells. Samples were treated with RNase I after pulldown.

The blots are representative of three biological replicates.

(E) Immunoblotting of TRIM25 coimmunoprecipitations and corresponding input lysates obtained from infected HeLa cells. Samples were treated with RNase I after pulldown. The blots are representative of three biological replicates.

(F) Quantification of DIS3L2 abundance in the TRIM25 PULL-DOWN immunoblot from panel S10E. The signal was normalized to TRIM25 abundance in the TRIM25 PULL-DOWN samples. Error bars represent standard deviation.

(G) Immunoblotting of ZAP coimmunoprecipitations and corresponding input lysates obtained from infected Control and TRIM25 CRISPR HeLa cells. Samples were treated with RNase I after pulldown. Note that the experiment shown here was performed alongside the experiment shown in Figure 7I, thus the input blots for PABPC1, TRIM25, ZAP and GAPDH are identical between the two panels. The blots are representative of three biological replicates.

SUPPLEMENTARY DATASETS

Table S1: poly(A)RNA-seq in mock, HIV-WT and HIV-CpG infected HEK293T, ZAP-L and ZAP-S knockout cells, related to Figure 1 and 2.

Table S2: ZAP binding peaks in HIV-WT and HIV-CpG infected HEK293T, ZAP-L and ZAP-S knockout cells, related to Figure 1 and 2.

Table S3: poly(A)RNA-seq in mock, HIV-WT and HIV-CpG infected Control, ZAP, TRIM25 and KHNYN CRISPR cells, related to Figure 3 and 4.

1836 **Table S4: ZAP binding peaks in HIV-WT and HIV-CpG infected Control and TRIM25**

1837 **CRISPR cells, related to Figure S6.**

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Fig 1

Fig 2

Fig 3

Fig 4

Fig 5

Fig 6

HIV-CpG

Fig 7