The organizer of chromatin topology RIF1 ensures cellular resilience to DNA replication stress.

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Running title: RIF1 stabilizes replication domains.

Abstract

Eukaryotic genomes are duplicated from thousands of replication origins that fire sequentially forming

a defined spatiotemporal pattern of replication clusters. The temporal order of DNA replication is

determined by chromatin architecture and, more specifically, by chromatin contacts that are stabilized

by RIF1. Here we show that RIF1 localizes in close proximity to newly synthesized DNA. In cells exposed

to the DNA replication inhibitor aphidicolin, suppression of RIF1 markedly decreased the efficacy of

protein isolation on nascent DNA (iPOND), suggesting that the iPOND procedure is biased by chromatin

topology. RIF1 was required to limit the accumulation of DNA lesions induced by aphidicolin treatment

and promoted the recruitment of cohesins in the vicinity of nascent DNA. Collectively, the data suggest

that the stabilization of chromatin topology by RIF1 limits replication-associated genomic instability.

Keywords: RIF1/replicative stress/nuclear topology/iPOND/cohesin

Introduction

The duplication of a complete genome is a formidable task that must be perfectly controlled to avoid the transmission of mutations or chromosomal rearrangements to daughter cells. Two meters of DNA are packed and replicated in a human cell of about 10 μm of diameter. Hence, the spatiotemporal program of DNA replication is largely defined by the global organization of the nucleus (Marchal et al., 2019). DNA replication is initiated from defined regions of the genome called origins of replication. More than 30000 replication origins are required for the duplication of the human genome (Mechali, 2010). When replication forks stall, the firing of backup origins (also known as dormant origins) ensure the completion of DNA replication (Blow et al., 2011). The timing of replication is influenced by the 3D organization of chromatin architecture (Courbet et al., 2008; Foti et al., 2016; Klein et al., 2021). Cohesins influence origins firing locally (Guillou et al., 2010), yet without determining replication timing globally (Oldach and Nieduszynski, 2019), most likely via the formation of loops by extrusion (Davidson et al., 2019; Kim et al., 2019). RIF1, a conserved protein involved in telomeres capping, DNA double-strand break repair and chromatin organization, controls the timing of DNA replication (Cornacchia et al., 2012; Foti et al., 2016; Hayano et al., 2012; Klein et al., 2021; Mattarocci et al., 2016; Yamazaki et al., 2012). RIF1 determines replication timing via the stabilization of chromatin architecture (Foti et al., 2016; Kanoh et al., 2015; Klein et al., 2021; Yamazaki et al., 2013), and may regulate origin licensing owing to its interaction with PP1 phosphatase that would counteract DDK kinases (Dave et al., 2014; Hiraga et al., 2014; Mattarocci et al., 2014).

Throughout S phase, different nuclear patterns of replication foci reflect the orderly and sequential replication of chromatin domains (Chagin et al., 2016; Dimitrova and Berezney, 2002). Replication forks encounter a variety of impediments from both endogenous and exogenous sources (Lambert and Carr, 2013; Zeman and Cimprich, 2014). The slowing or stalling of replication forks by these impediments induces the activation of the checkpoint kinase ATR, which ensures that DNA synthesis within actively replicating chromosomal domains is completed before the duplication of a new chromosomal domain has started. ATR signaling delays the activation of late replication domains while promoting the firing of dormant origins within active replication domains (Blow et al., 2011). This suggests that the nuclear architecture contributes to cellular resilience to DNA replication stress. In support of this, Lamin A/C is required for the maintenance of chromosome integrity when the progression of replication forks is impeded by DNA lesions or upon nucleotide depletion (Singh et al., 2013). Furthermore, the association of Lamin A/C with the DNA polymerase clamp PCNA is critical for replication forks stability (Cobb et al., 2016). Hutchinson-Gilford progeria syndrome is caused by a mutation of the LMNA gene that leads to an aberrant Lamin A protein named progerin. The association of progerin with PCNA alters the nuclear distribution of PCNA, induces ATR activation and the formation of γH2A.X (Wheaton et al.,

2017). In budding yeast, cohesins accumulate in the vicinity of replication forks upon treatment with

hydroxyurea and are required for replication fork restart (Tittel-Elmer et al., 2012). These examples

illustrate the links between replicative stress and nuclear structures, which remain incompletely

understood.

The isolation of Proteins on Nascent DNA coupled with Mass Spectrometry (iPOND-MS) allows the

identification of proteins localized in the vicinity of active replication forks (Aranda et al., 2014;

Dungrawala et al., 2015; Lopez-Contreras et al., 2013; Lossaint et al., 2013; Sirbu et al., 2011; Sirbu et

al., 2013). iPOND experiments performed under various experimental conditions have revealed

components of the replication machinery (e.g. PCNA and DNA polymerases), proteins that accumulate

near forks under stressful conditions (e.g. ATR and FANCD2), proteins that are required for the

restoration of chromatin structures after passage of the replication fork (e.g. histones) and proteins

that are playing a structural roles such as Lamin A (Alabert et al., 2014; Dungrawala et al., 2015; Lopez-

Contreras et al., 2013; Lossaint et al., 2013; Ribeyre et al., 2016; Sirbu et al., 2011; Sirbu et al., 2013;

Wheaton et al., 2017).

Here we provide evidence that during S phase, RIF1 is proximal to newly synthesized DNA. In cells

exposed to the DNA polymerase inhibitor aphidicolin, RIF1 promotes the recruitment of the cohesin

subunits SMC1 and SMC3 near replication forks and stabilizes replicating nucleoprotein clusters

isolated by iPOND. We propose that the stabilization of chromatin architecture by RIF1 and cohesin

limits the formation of DNA lesions caused by DNA replication impediments.

Results

iPOND coupled with mass spectrometry identifies proteins involved in nuclear organization.

To identify new proteins in vicinity of replication forks we performed iPOND-MS using a highly sensitive

last generation mass spectrometer (Sciex TripleTOF 5600+) and quantified the results using MaxQuant

(Cox and Mann, 2008). We analyzed the data using Perseus (Tyanova et al., 2016) and took advantage

of a volcano plot representation to visualize the proteins significantly enriched upon EdU pulse

compared to a 2 hours thymidine chase (Figure 1A). As expected, most of the known proteins of the

replisome (e.g., PCNA, RFC subunits, MCM1-6, FEN1 or DNA polymerases) were clearly enriched. We

identified also a large number of proteins that were not previously described as replisome components

that will be analyzed elsewhere. Interestingly, the iPOND-MS data revealed an enrichment of several

cohesin subunits (SMC3, SMC1A, STAG2, RAD21, PDS5A and PDS5B) near forks (Figure 1A). Since

cohesins are thought to play an architectural role at replication foci (Guillou et al., 2010), it is likely

that they are not associated directly with individual replication forks but rather with chromatin domain

undergoing replication. In contrast, Lamin B1 and Lamin B2 were not enriched after EdU pulse (Figure

1A), indicating that not all the structural components of the nucleus are localized in proximity of active

replisomes. Interestingly, we identified RIF1 as a protein associated with nascent DNA (Figure 1A),

consistent with previous studies (Alabert et al., 2014; Munden et al., 2018). We confirmed this data

using an antibody directed against RIF1 (Figure 1B). This indicates that RIF1 localizes in the vicinity of

active replication forks. Consistent with this, we detected RIF1 in immune-precipitates of the

endogenous DNA polymerase clamp PCNA (Figure 1C).

RIF1 protects the integrity of replication forks upon prolonged replicative stress.

Although RIF1 located near active replisomes, suppression of RIF1 did not alter significantly the

progression of replication forks (SupFig1A), consistent with previous studies (Cornacchia et al., 2012;

Ray Chaudhuri et al., 2016). A higher frequency of stalled forks, however, is observed in $rif1^{-/-}$ DT40

cells (Xu et al., 2010), suggesting that RIF1 could be important for fork progression in some contexts.

Consistent with this, several studies have detected the activation of the checkpoint effector kinase

Chk1 in RIF1-depleted cells (Chapman et al., 2013; Foti et al., 2016). We confirmed that Chk1 was active

by phosphorylation on Serine 345 upon suppression of RIF1 by means of siRNAs (SupFig1B). We

observed also that RPA32 was phosphorylated on Ser4/8, suggesting that RIF1 depleted cells

accumulate DNA lesions (SupFig1B). Interestingly, RIF1 recruitment at replication forks is slightly

increased upon hydroxyurea (HU) treatment to limit DNA2-mediated DNA resection and DNA lesions

(Garzón et al., 2019; Mukherjee et al., 2019; Ray Chaudhuri et al., 2016). Consistent with this, DNA

lesions, genetic instability and HU sensitivity are increased upon RIF1 impairment (Buonomo et al.,

2009; Mukherjee et al., 2019; Xu et al., 2010). This raises the possibility that the stabilization of

chromatin topology by RIF1 limits replication-associated DNA lesions under stressful conditions. To

test this, we analyzed if RIF1 loss had any impact on replication fork dynamics in the presence of

aphidicolin (APH). We labelled cells for 30 minutes with IdU and then for 30 minutes with CldU in

presence of a low dose (0.05 μM) of APH. As expected, the ratio of the lengths of CldU versus IdU tracts

was close to 1 in control conditions and reduced by half in presence of APH (Figure 1D, SupFig1C). The

status of RIF1 did not change the ratios of CldU/IdU tracts (Figure 1D, SupFig1C) indicating that RIF1

depletion does not play any major role in early responses to APH. As RIF1 is protecting HU-stalled forks

from nucleases degradation (Garzón et al., 2019; Mukherjee et al., 2019), we tested if this was also the

case when replication forks were blocked with APH. To do so, we treated cells 6 hours with a high dose

(1 μM) of APH after 30 min sequential labelling of IdU and CldU and measured the ratio between the

lengths of CldU and IdU tracts. The ratio was close to 1 in cells treated with a control siRNA, and below

1 in RIF1 depleted cells, confirming that RIF1 is indeed protecting APH-stalled forks (Figure 1E).

Consistent with this, prolonged treatment (24 hours) with APH, increased the percentage of γ-H2A.X-

positive cells to almost 2-fold (Figure 1E) and decreased by two-fold the ability of replication forks to

restart (SupFig1D). Altogether, these data indicate that RIF1 limits the formation of DNA lesions under

stressful conditions.

RIF1-dependent loss of replication organization induces DNA lesions

Despite its role in protection of stalled replication forks (see above), RIF1 recruitment at forks does not

increase significantly in response to HU (Mukherjee et al., 2019) compared to proteins such as ATR, 9-

1-1, TopBP1 or FANCD2/FANCI (Dungrawala et al., 2015; Lossaint et al., 2013). Therefore, we

hypothesize that the impact of RIF1 on nascent DNA protection may not reflect a direct role at stalled

replication forks. This is supported by several articles showing that RIF1 is crucial for the organization

of higher-order chromatin domains and for the establishment of the replication timing program (Foti

et al., 2016; Klein et al., 2021; Moriyama et al., 2018; Yamazaki et al., 2012). Remarkably, the mid-S

pattern is selectively loss upon RIF1 impairment (Yamazaki et al., 2012), this effect was attributed to

the impact of RIF1 in replication timing. However, we noticed that these experiments have been

performed in cells synchronized with thymidine block and released into S-phase. It is well established

that synchronization with thymidine block perturbs the pool of nucleotides and induces DNA damage

(Kurose et al., 2006). Thus, we hypothesized that the absence of mid-S pattern in RIF1-depleted cells

synchronized using a thymidine block could reflect a defect in the maintenance of chromatin topology

during DNA replicative stress. To test this, we compared the frequency of each pattern in asynchronous

conditions and in cells synchronized with thymidine block and released into S-phase upon RIF1

depletion (Figure 1A). In synchronous condition, we were able to reproduce the results of Yamazaki et

al. and observed the disappearance of the mid-S pattern upon RIF1 depletion (Figure 2B, 2C).

Surprisingly, in asynchronous conditions, we found that RIF1 depletion did not alter the occurrence of

the mid-S pattern (Figure 2B, 2C). Importantly, and as already observed (Yamazaki et al., 2012), cell-

cycle distribution was not significantly affected in absence of RIF1 in synchronous or asynchronous

conditions (SupFig2A). This result suggests that the disappearance of the mid-S pattern in RIF1

depleted cells is a consequence of the synchronization procedure. This observation cannot be solely

explained by the difference in replication timing since it should be also observed in asynchronous cells.

To test if synchronization procedure increases the level or replicative stress, we analyzed the level of

the marker of DNA damage γ-H2A.X. In an asynchronous population of cells, the depletion of RIF1 had

no impact on the percentage of γ-H2A.X positive cells (Figure 2B, 2D). As expected, the percentage of

γ-H2A.X positive cells increased 2 hours after release from the thymidine block. Strikingly, inactivation

of RIF1 tripled the percentage of γ-H2A.X positive cells in the same conditions (6.9% in control versus

24.1% in shRIF1 (1) and 19.1% in shRIF1 (2)). We conclude that the disappearance of the mid-S pattern

upon RIF1 depletion correlates with the formation of DNA lesions. The thymidine block procedure is

affecting the pool of dNTPs and therefore should have a direct impact on the progression of replication

forks that might be exacerbated in the absence of RIF1. To test this, we monitored the phosphorylation

of Chk1 on Serine 345. In control condition, we observed a mild phosphorylation of Chk1 on Serine

345, in line with the higher level of γ-H2A.X (Figure 2E). Interestingly, we observed a strong level of

Chk1 phosphorylation in RIF1-depleted cells 2 hours after release from the thymidine block (Figure 2E).

In asynchronous conditions, suppression of RIF1 did not significantly alter the progression of

replication forks (SupFig1A). Two hours after release from a thymidine block, however, replication

tracts were longer in the absence of RIF1 (Figure 2F, SupFig2B). Unrestrained DNA synthesis would

yield single-stranded DNA gaps detected and signaled by ATR, consistent with higher level of Chk1 and

H2A.X phosphorylation. We propose that the occurrence of DNA lesions during prolonged replicative

stress observed in RIF1 depleted cells is a consequence of alterations in the organization of replicated

chromatin domains.

RIF1 impairment reduces iPOND efficiency in presence of replicative stress.

We showed that prolonged treatment with APH or thymidine yields high level of γH2A.X in RIF1-

depleted cells. Importantly, after a thymidine block, the increase of γH2A.X signal correlates with

alterations of DNA replication patterns. Since APH has also been widely used for cell synchronization,

it is highly probable that the increase level of DNA lesions is absence of RIF1 in APH treated cells is also

due to a defect in the maintenance of chromatin topology. Alternatively, the data could reflect a role

for RIF1 in G1 cells rather than in S phase. To understand this in more details, we performed a series

of experiments in RIF1-depleted cells using short treatments with aphidicolin (Figure 3A). First, we

performed iPOND assay and probed isolated proteins by western-blotting (Figure 3B). Under standard

cell culture conditions, the efficacy of PCNA isolation with nascent DNA in RIF1-depleted cells was

similar to that of control cells (Figure 3B). As expected, a 30 min treatment with a low dose of APH (0.1

μM) induced the recruitment of BRCA1 and TopBP1 on nascent DNA (Figure 3B). Strikingly, in RIF1-

depleted cells treated with APH, the efficacy of PCNA recovery (as well as BRCA1 and TopBP1) with

nascent DNA diminished dramatically (Figure 3B), an observation we could reproduce with PCNA and

other replisomes components (SupFig3A). This observation could be the consequence of a massive

decrease in EdU incorporation that would impair proteins recovery. To test this hypothesis, we

measured EdU incorporation using immunofluorescence. As expected APH treatment reduces strongly

EdU incorporation but this effect was similar in RIF1-depleted cells, suggesting that EdU incorporation

is not impaired (Figure 3C). In addition, and consistent with Figure 1D, DNA fibers experiment

performed in the exact same cell line than the one used for iPOND indicate that DNA synthesis is

occurring, although at lower pace, in response of APH independently of the presence of RIF1 (Figure

3D). Thus, a defect in DNA synthesis does not account for the reduced isolation of EdU-bound proteins

from RIF1-depleted cells. Furthermore, we detected similar levels of the replisome-associated proteins

MSH2 and MCM7 in PCNA immune-precipitates from control and RIF1-depleted cells (SupFig3B),

suggesting that RIF1 is not required for replisome stability and replication fork progression. As this

step, the most reasonable hypothesis is that in presence of replicative stress, suppression of RIF1

reduces the efficacy of capture of EdU-associated proteins. To generalize this observation, we

performed the exact same iPOND experiment than in Figure 3B but analyzed the pulldowns using mass

spectrometry (Figure 3E). In comparison with control cells, the treatment of RIF1-depleted cell with

APH markedly reduced the abundance of the replication factors PCNA, MSH6, DPOD1, FEN1 and RFC4

captured by iPOND (Figure 3E). By contrast, changes in the efficacy of streptavidin pulldowns were not

observed for mitochondrial proteins such as NDUS1, NDUS3, P5CR2 and SDHA, which are also isolated

by iPOND (SupFig3C). To generalize this observation to the whole replisome, we summed the peptides

intensities of all replisome proteins listed in a previous study (Lopez-Contreras et al., 2013). In control

cells (shLUC), APH treatment moderately affected the recovery of replisome components (SupFig3D).

By contrast, APH had a severe impact on the recovery of replisome components from RIF1-depleted

cells (~50% decrease for shRIF1 (1) and ~33% decrease for shRIF1 (2)). The data indicate that APH

treatment reduces the probability to capture proteins associated with EdU-labelled DNA in RIF1-

depleted cells.

The efficacy of iPOND is biased by chromatin topology.

How can we explain that in cells exposed to aphidicolin, RIF1 depletion decreases the efficacy of iPOND

without affecting EdU incorporation? To answer to this question, one has to take into consideration

that the association of proteins such as cohesins or RIF1 with EdU may be indirect and determined by

chromatin topology. Consistent with this, methods that are using formaldehyde crosslinking such as

ChIP or chromosome conformation capture are indeed dependent on nuclear organization. To test if

iPOND efficiency is biased by chromatin organization, we took advantage of the distinct and

characteristic patterns formed by replicons labelled with EdU (Dimitrova and Berezney, 2002). In early

S-phase (replication of euchromatin), the EdU pattern is poorly clustered. Clusterization then increases

in mid-S phase (replication of facultative heterochromatin) and is even stronger in late S-phase

(replication of constitutive heterochromatin). We synchronized HeLa S3 cells using a simple thymidine

block procedure and released the cells in fresh media without thymidine (Figure 4A). We added EdU

for 15 minutes just before release (T0) and then 2 hours (T2), 4 hours (T4) and 8 hours (T8) after release

(Figure 4A). We verified the synchronization procedure by flow cytometry using double labelling with

EdU and propidium iodide (Figure 4B). As expected at T0 the majority (~80%) of the cells were in G1.

Two and four hours after release (T2 and T4) most of the cells (~80%) were in S-phase. After 8 hours

(T8), cells entered G2 and the number of S-phase cells decreased (~25%). We then performed iPOND

experiment on synchronized and non-synchronized cells. At T0, the PCNA signal was barely detectable,

as expected, and comparable to the control (minus click) of the asynchronous conditions (Figure 4C).

By contrast, we could observe a clear PCNA signal after the EdU-Biotin click reaction in non-

synchronized condition. At T2 and T4 the PCNA signal became detectable. Surprisingly the strongest

signal was observed at T8 despite the fact that the number of cells in S-phase is lower than in T4 and

T2 (Figure 4C). This observation is also true for MCM7 and H3 (Figure 4C) and is reproducible (Figure

4D). This result indicates that the efficacy of protein isolation on nascent DNA does not correlate

directly with the number of cells in S-phase. Therefore, we propose that the recovery of replisomes

components by iPOND is strongly dependent on the organization of replicated chromatin domains (Sup

Fig4). Thus, we suggest that the reduced efficacy of EdU-biotin streptavidin pulldowns in the iPOND

procedure and the accumulation of markers of DNA damage in RIF1 depleted cells exposed to

aphidicolin reflects a role for RIF1 in the stabilization of chromatin topology under DNA replication

stress conditions.

RIF1 depletion impairs the loading of SMC1 and SMC3 at forks in presence of replicative stress

RIF1 stabilizes chromatin topology via its intrinsic capacity to bridge molecules (Mattarocci et al., 2017)

and may promote the recruitment of additional proteins involved in the organization of chromatin

topology such as the cohesin complex. Indeed, cohesin are associated with replication forks in basal

conditions (Figure 1A) and in response to replicative stress (Ribeyre et al., 2016; Tittel-Elmer et al.,

2012). In addition, cohesins cooperate with RIF1 in the stabilization of chromatin topology at sites of

DNA double-strand breaks (Ochs et al., 2019), and organize DNA repair foci via a mechanism of loop

extrusion at both sites of the DNA breaks (Arnould et al., 2021). Since RIF1 depletion diminishes the

efficacy of the iPOND procedure, we used, as an alternative method, a proximity ligation assay (PLA,

Figure 5A) to analyze the loading of cohesins subunits in the vicinity of nascent DNA (Petruk et al.,

2017; Petruk et al., 2012; Roy et al., 2018). We first validated the method using PCNA as positive

control. As expected, we detected PCNA-EdU proximity signals in cells after the coupling of EdU and

biotin, specifically (SupFig5A). We then analyzed the recruitment of SMC1 to nascent DNA in presence

of 0.1μM APH. In control conditions, we observed a clear PLA signal between EdU and SMC1 confirming

that SMC1 is recruited near stalled replication forks (Figure 5B). Interestingly, the signal of proximity

between EdU and SMC1 was reduced in RIF1-depleted cells (Figure 5B, 5C, SupFig 5B). Consistent with

this, the localization of SMC3 to stalled forks was also dependent on RIF1 (SupFig5C). By contrast, RIF1

suppression had no impact on EdU-PCNA proximity signal (Figure 5B, 5C, SupFig 5B). We verified that

the suppression of RIF1 did not reduce the level of SMC3 and SMC1 expression (SupFig5D). Thus, we

conclude that RIF1 contributes to the loading of the cohesins subunits SMC1 and SMC3 near stalled

DNA replication forks.

Discussion

RIF1 was originally discovered more than 25 years ago in budding yeast as a negative regulator of

telomere elongation (Hardy et al., 1992). It is now clearly established that RIF1 is a highly conserved

protein (Sreesankar et al., 2012) involved in telomeres protection, DNA replication, DNA double-strand

break repair, transcription and heterochromatin formation (Mattarocci et al., 2016). The links between

the seemingly disparate functions of RIF1 may stem for the function of RIF1 in the stabilization of

chromatin topology (Arnould et al., 2021; Klein et al., 2021). Here we provide evidence that the

organization of chromatin architecture by RIF1 ensures chromosome stability during DNA replication

stress. This model is based on the following findings: (1) RIF1 locates near replication sites in basal

conditions (2) DNA replication stress in RIF1-depleted cells modifies S phase patterns and increases the

level of the DNA damage marker γH2A.X (3) Suppression of RIF1 strongly affects the organization of

DNA replication in response to replicative stress. (4) RIF1 may exert this function in coordination with

the cohesin complex. Our model is consistent with the finding that RIF1 bridges proximal DNA

molecules (Mattarocci et al., 2017) and creates a protective structure around DBSs (Ochs et al., 2019).

Thus, we propose that the chromatin organizing function of RIF1 ensures DNA replication under

stressful conditions (Figure 6). By analogy with its function at yeast telomeres, we would like to

propose that RIF1 is protecting replication domains (Figure 6).

The association of RIF1 with the replication forks has been previously observed by other groups

(Alabert et al., 2014; Her et al., 2018; Munden et al., 2018). We confirmed that suppression of RIF1 has

no measurable effect on replication forks progression under standard conditions or in response to

short treatment with replicative stress (Cornacchia et al., 2012; Ray Chaudhuri et al., 2016; Xu et al.,

2010) despite the fact that RIF1 loss induces Chk1 phosphorylation on Ser345 (Chapman et al., 2013;

Foti et al., 2016). Interestingly, we found that two hours after release from a thymidine block,

replication tracts are longer in the absence of RIF1 and phosphorylation levels of Chk1 on Ser345 and

H2A.X on Ser139 are increased. One possibility is that in the absence of RIF1, the disorganization of

chromatin domains during DNA replication results in the accumulation of single-stranded DNA. The

accumulation of DNA lesions likely underpins the increased sensitivity of RIF1 defective cells to

inhibitors of DNA replication (Buonomo et al., 2009; Feng et al., 2013; Xu et al., 2010; Xu et al., 2017).

RIF1 is recruited by 53BP1 at DSBs to prevent homologous recombination and favor NHEJ (Chapman

et al., 2013; Di Virgilio et al., 2013; Escribano-Diaz et al., 2013; Zimmermann et al., 2013). Based on

this, it has been proposed that RIF1 could be recruited by 53BP1 to protect stalled forks independently

of BRCA1 (Xu et al., 2017). These data are raising the possibility that 53BP1 contributes to the

recruitment of RIF1 at replication forks in basic conditions and in response to replicative stress.

However, RIF1 recruitment is not impacted by 53BP1 depletion (Her et al., 2018) and RIF1, but not

53BP1, protects nascent DNA from degradation (Ray Chaudhuri et al., 2016) suggesting that the

presence of RIF1 at replication forks is independent of 53BP1, consistent with it capacity to form higher

order structures in budding yeast (Mattarocci et al., 2017).

Our model is consistent with the observation that RIF1 protects stalled replication forks from resection

by nucleases, perhaps via the creation of a compartment that prevent their recruitment (Garzón et al.,

2019; Mukherjee et al., 2019; Ray Chaudhuri et al., 2016). A role for RIF1 in safeguarding the stability

of replicated domains may also explain how RIF1 controls the activation of dormant origins in response

to replicative stress (Hiraga et al., 2017) and prevents the formation of anaphase bridges (Hengeveld

et al., 2015 ; Zaaijer et al., 2016). RIF1 depletion has a strong impact on replication timing (Cornacchia

et al., 2012; Foti et al., 2016; Yamazaki et al., 2012). The action of RIF1 on the replication timing

program may result from the regulation of DDK kinase activation through RIF1 interaction with the PP1

phosphatase (Dave et al., 2014; Hiraga et al., 2014; Mattarocci et al., 2014) or through its ability to

bind G-quadruplexes and to organize chromatin topology (Kanoh et al., 2015). Since the loss of RIF1

induces drastic changes in nuclear organization revealed by chromosome conformation capture

methods (Foti et al., 2016), we favor the hypothesis that the impact of RIF1 on replication timing is a

consequence of impaired nuclear organization rather than of a defect in the control of DDK kinases.

The later hypothesis is supported by recent evidence based on Hi-C chromosome conformation

capture experiments showing that RIF1 is necessary to enforce chromosome interaction hubs that

determine the replication-timing program (Klein et al., 2021). This model could explain why

suppression of RIF1 perturbs transcription and heterochromatin formation (Dan et al., 2014; Hiraga et

al., 2017; Klein et al., 2021). Since the recruitment of cohesins at stalled forks is dependent on RIF1, it

is tempting to speculate that RIF1 might ensures the stabilization of replicating chromatin domains in

coordination with cohesin. Consistent with this, the depletion of cohesin subunits mimics topological

alterations at DSBs caused by the depletion of RIF1 (Ochs et al., 2019). In contrast, induced degradation

of SCC1 did not impact the patterns of replication (Oldach and Nieduszynski, 2019). We favor a model

where the cohesin complex is recruited by RIF1 directly at stalled forks to maintain the local

organization of chromatin, with no impact on the general organization of DNA replication (Ribeyre et

al., 2016; Tittel-Elmer et al., 2012).

Finally, this study illustrates an as yet unforeseen application of iPOND (or iPOND-related methods

based on formaldehyde crosslinking). It is generally assumed that the iPOND method captures proteins

associated with individual replisomes distributed along a linear DNA template. Here we show that the

iPOND method is not only efficient to isolate replisome components but also to capture structural

components of replicating chromatin domains stabilized by formaldehyde crosslinking. Future studies

using iPOND and other method should provide new insights into the role of the nuclear organization

in DNA replication.

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Author Contributions

Cyril Ribeyre: conceptualization, data curation, supervision, formal analysis, funding acquisition, investigation, visualization, methodology, project administration and writing original draft, review and editing.

Rana Lebdy: conceptualization, data curation, formal analysis, investigation, visualization, methodology and draft review and editing

Julie Patouillard: formal analysis, investigation, visualization and methodology.

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Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Methods

Cell lines

HeLa S3 (obtained from ATCC) cells were cultured in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's media (DMEM). Culture media was supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (Biowest) and penicillin/streptomycin (Sigma-Aldrich). Cells were incubated in a 5% CO_2 at $37^{\circ}C$. For thymidine block experiments cells were treated18 hours with 2 mM thymidine, washed then release into normal media.

Gene silencing

For RIF1 depletion siRNA oligonucleotides were purchased from Dharmacon (M-027983-01-0005) and transfected using INTERFERin (Polypus transfection). Anti-RIF1 shRNAs (1) and (2) and anti-luciferase shRNA were cloned in pSUPER-EBV and transfected using Lifofectamine 2000 (Thermo-Fisher). Stable cell lines were selected using puromycin.

Western-blot

The proteins were resolved by SDS-PAGE using home-made or precast gels (Bio-Rad) and transferred to a nitrocellulose membrane (GE Healthcare or Bio-Rad). Antibodies against the following proteins were used: Ser345 Phospho-Chk1 (Cell Signaling Technology 2348), Chk1 (Santa Cruz sc-8408), PCNA (Sigma-Aldrich P8825), Ser4/8 Phospho-RPA32 (A300-245A), RPA32 (Calbiochem NA18), TopBP1 (Bethyl A300-111A), histone H3 (Abcam ab62642) BRCA1 (Santacruz sc-642), RIF1 (Bethyl A300-568A-M) and MCM7 (Abcam ab2360).

Co-Immunoprecipitation

Cells were incubated for 30 min in ice in high salt buffer (50 mM Tris Ph 7.5, 300 mM NaCl, 1% Triton, 1 mM DTT). After 10 min centrifugation at 14000g, supernatant was incubated with anti PCNA antibody (Sigma-Aldrich, P8825) or IgG Rabbit (Calbiochem NI01) overnight at 4°C. Magnetic beads coupled with protein G (Life 10004D) were added for 1 hour and washed 5 times with washing buffer (10 mM Hepes, 100 mM KOAc, 0.1 mM MgOAc). Beads were boiled in Laemmli buffer and supernatants were analyzed by Western-blot.

Isolation of proteins on Nascent DNA (iPOND)

iPOND was performed largely as described in (Lossaint et al., 2013; Ribeyre et al., 2016). Briefly, HeLa S3 cells were pulse labeled with 10 μM EdU for 5-15 min and a 120 min chase was performed with 10 μM thymidine. Cells were fixed with 1% formaldehyde for 5 min followed or not by quenching of formaldehyde by 5 min incubation with 0.125 M glycine. Fixed samples were collected by

centrifugation at 2000 rpm for 3 min, washed three times with PBS and stored at -80°C. Cells were

permeabilized with 0.5% triton and click chemistry was used to conjugate biotin-TEG-azide

(Eurogentec) to EdU-labelled DNA. Cells were re-suspended in lysis buffer and sonication was

performed using a Qsonica sonicator. Biotin conjugated DNA-protein complexes were captured using

streptavidin beads (Ademtech). Captured complexes were washed with lysis buffer and high salt.

Proteins associated with nascent DNA were eluted under reducing conditions by boiling into SDS

sample buffer for 30 min at 95 °C.

DNA fibers labelling

DNA fibers labelling was performed as previously described (Lossaint et al., 2013; Ribeyre et al., 2016).

Cells were labeled with 25μM IdU, washed with warm media and exposed to 50 μM CldU. Cells were

lysed and DNA fibers were stretched onto glass slides. The DNA fibers were denatured with 2.5 M HCl

for 1 hour, washed with PBS and blocked with 2% BSA in PBS-Tween for 60 minutes. IdU replication

tracts were revealed with a mouse anti-BrdU/IdU antibody from BD Biosciences (347580) and CldU

tracts with a rat anti-BrdU/CldU antibody from Eurobio (ABC117-7513). The following secondary

antibodies were used: alexa fluor 488 anti-mouse antibody (Life A21241) and Cy3 anti-rat antibody

(Jackson Immunoresearch 712-166-153). Replication tracts lengths were analyzed using ImageJ

software. For statistical analysis we used a non-parametrical Mann-Whitney with Prism software.

Immunofluorescence

Cells were plated on glass coverslips and fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde in PBS for 20 min at room

temperature. When indicated cells were incubated with EdU (5-ethynyl-2'-deoxyuridine) for the

indicated times. PFA-fixed cells were permeabilized with 0.2% Triton X-100 in PBS for 5 min. Primary

(Ser139 Phospho-H2A.X ; Millipore 05-636 and RIF1 ; Bethyl A300-568A-M) and secondary antibodies

(anti-mouse Alexa 488 and anti-rabbit alexa 546) were prepared in PBS with 0.1% Tween and

incubations were carried out in a humidified chamber at room temperature (60 min and 30 min,

respectively). EdU was coupled with Alexa fluor 555 using Click chemistry. DNA was stained with

Hoechst. The cells were mounted on glass slides with Prolong (Life). Cells were analyzed by

fluorescence microscopy and quantification of various signals was performed using CellProfiler

software (Carpenter et al., 2006).

Proximity Ligation Assay

Cells were plated on glass coverslips and fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde in PBS for 20 min at room

temperature. When indicated cells were incubated with EdU (5-ethynyl-2'-deoxyuridine). PFA-fixed

cells were permeabilized with 0.5% Triton X-100 in PBS for 20 min. EdU was coupled with Alexa fluor

555 or biotin-TEG-azide using Click chemistry. Primary antibodies against SMC1 (Bethyl A300-055A),

SMC3 (Bethyl A300-060A), PCNA (Sigma-Aldrich P8825), Biotin (Bethyl A150-109A or Jackson

Immunoresearch 200-002-211) were incubated overnight. Probes from Duolink In Situ PLA Probe Anti-

Rabbit PLUS (DUO92002, Sigma-Aldrich) and Duolink In Situ PLA Probe Anti-Mouse MINUS (DUO92004,

Sigma-Aldrich) we incubated with coverslip 60 min at 37°C. For ligation (30 min at 37°C) and

amplification (100 min at 37°C), Duolink In Situ Detection Reagents Green (DUO92014, Sigma-Aldrich)

was used. The cells were mounted on glass slides with Duolink In Situ Mounting Medium with DAPI

(DUO82040, Sigma-Aldrich). Cells were analyzed by fluorescence microscopy and quantification of PLA

signal was performed using CellProfiler software (Carpenter et al., 2006).

Flow cytometry

Cells were labelled with EdU for 15 min then fixed in 80% ethanol. After permeabilization, EdU was

coupled with Alexa fluor 488 using Click chemistry. DNA was stained using propidium iodide and

analysis was performed on Miltenyi MACS quant device.

Mass Spectrometry Analysis

Mass spectrometry was performed as indicated in (Kumbhar et al., 2018). Analysis of raw files was

performed using MaxQuant (Cox and Mann, 2008) version 1.5.6.5 using default settings with label-

free quantification option enabled. Raw file spectra were searched against the human UniProt

reference database. Protein, peptide, and site false discovery rate (FDR) were adjusted to < 0.01.

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 Figures Legends

 Figure 1: RIF1 is associated with nascent DNA and is required to limit DNA lesions in response to

 prolonged aphidicolin treatment. A. iPOND coupled with mass spectrometry. HeLa S3 were pulse-

 labeled with EdU or pulse-labelled with EdU then subjected to a 120 min thymidine chase the subjected

 to iPOND and analyzed by mass-spectrometry. Label free quantification was performed using

 MaxQuant (Cox and Mann, 2008) and statistical analysis using Perseus (Tyanova et al., 2016). Pulse

 experiments have been performed 6 times and chase experiments 4 times. Examples of replisome-

 specific proteins are indicated on the right side of the figure above the line. Full proteins list is available

 in Supplementary Table 1. **B.** Indicated proteins were isolated by iPOND and detected by Western

 blotting. HeLa S3 cells were pulse-labelled with EdU for 15 min and chased with thymidine for 120 min.

 In no click biotin-TEG azide was replaced by DMSO. **C.** Western-blot analysis of indicated proteins after

 immunoprecipitation with an antibody directed against PCNA or against mouse IgG. **D.** DNA fibers

 labelling and Western-blot analysis of RIF1 depletion. HeLa S3 cells were labelled for 30 min with IdU

 and then for 30 min with CldU in the absence or presence of 0.05 μM aphidicolin (APH) in the cell

 culture medium. Graphic representation of the ratios of CldU versus IdU tract length. For statistical

 analysis Mann-Whitney test was used; ns, non-significant, ****p<0.0001. The horizontal bar

 represents the median with the value indicated in red. 50 replication tracts were measured for each

 experimental condition. **E.** Analysis of DNA resection using DNA fibers labelling. HeLa S3 cells were

 labelled for 30 min with IdU and then for 30 min with CldU. 1 μM aphidicolin (APH) was added in the

 cell culture medium for 6 hours. Graphic representation of the ratios of CldU versus IdU tract length.

 For statistical analysis Mann-Whitney test was used; ****p<0.0001. The horizontal bar represents the

 median with the value indicated in red. 50 replication tracts were measured for each experimental

 condition. **F.** Immunofluorescence analysis of γH2A.X and RIF1 in HeLa S3 cells with siRNA against

 control or RIF1 in presence or absence of aphidicolin (APH) for 24 hours. Graphic representation of the

 percentage of γH2A.X positive cells based on 3 independent experiments.

 Figure 2: RIF1 depletion alters S-phase organization and yields DNA lesions. A. Experimental setup to

 study the impact of synchronization procedure in HeLa S3 cells depleted or not for RIF1. The efficacy

 of RIF1 depletion using 2 different shRNA is shown. For synchronization, cells were grown 18 hours in

 presence of 2mM thymidine then released into S-phase for 2 hours. Cells were then subjected to

 immunofluorescence, western-blot or DNA fibers analysis. **B.** Immunofluorescence analysis of γH2A.X

 and EdU in asynchronous and synchronous HeLa S3 cells expressing shRNAs against luciferase or RIF1.

 C. Graphic representation of the frequency of replication patterns (Late-S, Mid-S and Early-S) based on

 at least three independent experiments for each condition. **D.** Quantification of γH2A.X intensity within

 nucleus stained with Hoechst using CellProfiler based on at least three independent experiments for

each condition. **E.** Western-blot analysis of Chk1 phosphorylation on Serine 345 upon RIF1 depletion

E. DNA fibers assay. HeLa S3 cells were labelled for 30 min with IdU and then for 30 min with CldU.

Graphic representation of CldU tracts lengths. For statistical analysis Mann-Whitney test was used; ns,

non-significant, ****p<0.0001. The horizontal bar represents the median with the value indicated in

red. At least 50 replication tracts were measured for each experimental condition.

Figure 3: RIF1 loss reduces the efficacy of proteins isolation on nascent DNA. A. Experimental set-up.

B. iPOND experiment. HeLa S3 cells (with shLUC or two different shRIF1) were labelled with EdU for 15

min or for 30 min with 0.1 µM aphidicolin (APH). Indicated proteins were analyzed by western-blotting.

In no click samples biotin-TEG azide was replaced by DMSO. **C.** Analysis of EdU incorporation using

microscopy in HeLa S3 cells with shRNA against luciferase or RIF1. EdU was incorporated in cells during

15 min with or without 0.1 µM aphidicolin (APH). Quantification of EdU intensity within nucleus stained

with Hoechst was performed using CellProfiler and is represented on the histogram. Error-bars

corresponds to the average values of three independent experiments. **D.** DNA fibers labelling. HeLa S3

cells were labelled for 30 min with IdU and then for 30 min with CldU in the absence or presence of

0.05 µM aphidicolin (APH) in the cell culture medium. Graphic representation of the ratios of CldU

versus IdU tract length. For statistical analysis Mann-Whitney test was used; ****p<0.0001. The

horizontal bar represents the median with the value indicated in red. At least 50 replication tracts were

measured for each experimental condition. **E.** iPOND-MS experiment. HeLa S3 cells (with shLUC or two

different shRIF1) were labelled with EdU for 15 min or for 30 min EdU with 0.1 µM aphidicolin (APH).

Quantification of peptides intensity corresponding to the indicated proteins is represented.

Figure 4: iPOND proteins recovery is biased by replication organization. A. Experimental set-up. HeLa

S3 cells were submitted to thymidine block during 18 hours and released into S-phase. Cells were

collected at T0 (G1), T2 (Early-S), T4 (Mid-S) and T8 (Late-S) after 15 min EdU pulse for iPOND and flow

cytometry. Replication patterns showing the different phases are represented. **B.** The percentage of

cells in each phase was analyzed using flow cytometry. The error-bars represent the variations within

3 independent experiments. **C.** iPOND experiment performed on unsynchronized and synchronized

cells and analyzed by western-blot using antibodies directed against the indicated proteins. In no click

samples, biotin-TEG azide was replaced by DMSO. **D.** Quantification of the indicated proteins in iPOND

based on at least 3 independent experiments, T0 was used for normalization.

Figure 5: RIF1 is required for full recruitment of cohesin subunits at stalled forks. A. Scheme

explaining the principle of proximity ligation assay (PLA) between EdU and replisome components. **B.**

Immunofluorescence analysis of PLA signal between EdU and SMC1 and between EdU and PCNA upon

30 min treatment with 0.1 µM APH in HeLa S3 cells expressing shRNAs against luciferase or RIF1. EdU-

positive cells were labelled with Alexa-Fluor 555. **C.** The level of PLA signal within the nucleus was

quantified using CellProfiler. Graphical representation of the PLA signal, at least 100 cells were

quantified in each condition. For statistical analysis Mann-Whitney test was used; ns, non-significant,

****p<0.0001; ***p<0.001.

Figure 6: Model to explain the role of RIF1 in the organization of replication factories. RIF1 stabilizes

chromatin topology during DNA replication thus preventing DNA resection by nucleases or excessive

origins activation. This could direct, thanks to its capacity to interact with DNA, or/and via the

recruitment of cohesin ring. In its absence, the replication domains are unprotected leading to DNA

resection, DNA lesions and activation of DNA damage response.

 Supplementary figures legends

Sup Figure 1: A. DNA fibers labelling. HeLa S3 cells were labelled for 30 min with IdU and then for 30

min with CldU. Graphic representation of the ratios of CldU tract length. The horizontal bar represents

the median with the value indicated in red. For statistical analysis Mann-Whitney test was used; ns,

non-significant. At least 50 replication tracts were measured for each experimental condition. The

second graphic representation is showing the average of four independent experiments. **B.** Western-

blot analysis of the indicated proteins upon transfection with siRNA directed against RIF1 or a control

target. **C.** This graphic representation is showing the average of the three independent experiments

from Figure 1D. **D.** Analysis of replication restart upon APH treatment using DNA fibers labelling. HeLa

S3 cells were labelled for 30 min with IdU, then treated 16 hrs with 10μM APH and then for 30 min

with CldU. Graphic representation of the percentage of restart based on 3 independent experiments.

Sup Figure 2: A. Flow cytometry analysis of cells depleted or not for RIF1 in asynchronous or

synchronous conditions (18 hours thymidine block followed by 2 hours release). DNA was stained using

propidium iodide. **B.** This graphic representation is showing the average of the three independent

experiments from Figure 2F.

Sup Figure 3: A. iPOND experiment. HeLa S3 cells (with shLUC or two different shRIF1) were treated

30 min with 0.1 μM aphidicolin (APH) then washed and labelled with EdU for 30 min. Indicated proteins

were analyzed by Western-blotting. In no click samples, biotin-TEG azide was replaced by DMSO. **B.**

Western-blot analysis of indicated proteins after immunoprecipitation with an antibody directed

against PCNA or against mouse IgG. When indicated HeLa S3 cells (shLUc or shRIF1) were treated for

30 min with 0.1 μM aphidicolin (APH). **C.** Peptides intensity of proteins not specific from the replisome

from the iPOND experiment from Figure 3C. **D.** Summed intensities of peptides corresponding to

replisomes components (listed in Supplementary Table 2)from the iPOND experiment from Figure 3C.

Sup Figure 4: Scheme explaining how replication organization is impacting iPOND efficiency.

Sup Figure 5: A. Immunofluorescence analysis of PLA signal between EdU and PCNA, in -click control

the Biotin-TEG azide was replaced by DMSO. **B.** Graphic representation of the average PLA signal

(normalized to 100 in shLUC) from 3 independent experiments corresponding to Figure 5C. **C.**

Immunofluorescence analysis of PLA signal between EdU and SMC3 upon 30 min treatment with 0.1

μM APH in HeLa S3 cells expressing shRNAs against luciferase or RIF1. EdU-positive cells were labelled

with Alexa-Fluor 555. The level of PLA signal within the nucleus was quantified using CellProfiler.

Graphical representation of the PLA signal, at least 100 cells were quantified in each condition. For

statistical analysis Mann-Whitney test was used; ****p<0.0001. Graphic representation of the average

PLA signal (normalized to 100 in shLUC) from 3 independent experiments. **A.** Immunofluorescence

analysis of SMC1 and SMC3. Graphic representation of the average SMC1 and SMC3 intensity within

nucleus (normalized to 100 in shLUC) from 3 independent experiments.

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

Figure 5

A

EdU pulse → Click Biotin → Antibodies against biotin and target protein (e.g. PCNA) → Proximity ligation assay reaction

B

C

Figure 6

+RIF1

-RIF1

Cohesin ring

RIF1
RIF1

DNA resection
nucleases recruitment
origin activation

DNA resection
DNA lesions
DNA damage response

RIF1 stabilizes the topology
of replicating chromatin

"Unprotected" replication domains

Sup Figure 1

A

B

C

D

Sup Figure 2

A

B

Sup Figure 3

A

B

C

D

Sup Figure 4

S-phase	*Early/Mid*	*Late*
Clusterization	*Low*	*High*
Probability to capture indirectly replisomes	*Low*	*Strong*

Sup Figure 5