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The contribution of PARP1, PARP2 and poly(ADP-ribosylation) to base excision repair in the nucleosomal context

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The regulation of repair processes including base excision repair (BER) in the presence of DNA damage is implemented by a cellular signal: poly(ADP-ribosylation) (PARylation), which is catalysed by PARP1 and PARP2. Despite ample studies, it is far from clear how BER is regulated by PARPs and how the roles are distributed between the PARPs. Here, we investigated the effects of PARP1, PARP2 and PARylation on activities of the main BER enzymes (APE1, DNA polymerase β [Pol β] and DNA ligase III α [LigIII α]) in combination with BER scaffold protein XRCC1 in the nucleosomal context. We constructed nucleosome core particles with midward- or outward-oriented damage. It was concluded that in most cases, the presence of PARP1 leads to the suppression of the activities of APE1, Pol β and to a lesser extent LigIII α . PARylation by PARP1 attenuated this effect to various degrees depending on the enzyme. PARP2 had an influence predominantly on the last stage of BER: DNA sealing. Nonetheless, PARylation by PARP2 led to Pol β inhibition and to significant stimulation of LigIII α activities in a NAD⁺-dependent manner. On the basis of the obtained and literature data, we suggest a hypothetical model of the contribution of PARP1 and PARP2 to BER.

Genome stability in higher eukaryotes is maintained by the activity of several DNA repair pathways selective to the type of DNA damage¹. DNA lesions that do not induce strong distortions in the double helix of DNA structure are eliminated by base excision repair (BER)^{2,3}. Even though this process was discovered a long time ago, its regulation is still actively studied.

BER includes the following main stages: DNA damage recognition, excision of the damaged base, incision of the sugar-phosphate backbone, gap processing (including the incorporation of dNMP) and DNA ligation. At the initiation stage, a lesion-specific DNA glycosylase recognises a damaged heterocycle and hydrolyses the *N*-glycosidic bond thereby forming an apurinic/apyrimidinic (AP) site in the DNA duplex. In addition, the emergence of an AP site in DNA could be a consequence of spontaneous hydrolysis of the *N*-glycosidic bond². AP sites are predominantly cleaved by AP endonuclease 1 (APE1) via hydrolytic mechanisms resulting in a single-strand gap containing 5'-deoxyribose phosphate and 3'-hydroxyl groups for the synthetic stage of the BER process⁴.

The canonical short-patch pathway of BER proceeds by filling of the single-nucleotide gap with sequential removal of 5'-deoxyribose phosphate by 5'-deoxyribose phosphate (dRP) lyase activity and incorporation of dNMP via the nucleotidyl transferase activity of DNA polymerase β (Pol β). Finally, the single-strand break is sealed by the activity of DNA ligase III α (LigIII α) in complex with XRCC1.

Accurate BER functioning strongly depends on the regulation of each stage of the process. There are several proteins responsible for the BER regulation: XRCC1, PARP1 and PARP2⁵⁻⁸. Moreover, the regulation of different repair processes during the DNA damage response is driven by the emergence of special cellular signals; one of them is poly(ADP-ribosylation) (PARylation)⁹. The metabolism of poly(ADP-ribose) (PAR) in the nucleus is carried out by nuclear poly(ADP-ribose) polymerases (PARPs) 1 and 2, poly(ADP-ribose)glycohydrolase (PARG) and other PAR erasers and regulates various nuclear processes such as DNA repair, DNA replication, gene expression, chromatin dynamics, cell death and mitotic progression¹⁰. Using NAD⁺ as a substrate, several members of the PARP family can modify (by means of PAR) themselves and protein partners to modulate their functioning. PARP1 is the most abundant and active PARP, is strongly activated in response to DNA damage

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and synthesises most of PAR after genotoxic or oxidative stress^{11–13}. Mice devoid of PARP1 or PARP2 are viable but exhibit sensitivity to genotoxic agents, thus pointing to the involvement of both proteins in DNA repair^{14,15}. Nonetheless, double deletion of PARP1 and PARP2 causes early embryonic lethality in mice, indicating that each of these two proteins can partly compensate for the absence of the other one¹⁶.

The interaction of PARP1 with various BER DNA intermediates as well as the influence of PARP1 on the activity of key BER proteins have been analysed by diverse methods^{5,17–23}. These data show an interaction of PARP1 with an earlier intermediate of BER: the AP site. Additionally, investigators have documented the interaction of PARP1 with the central BER intermediate formed by the AP site-cleaving activity of APE1 as well as the influence of PARylation on the activity of Pol β and the other BER enzymes in short-patch and long-patch BER pathways^{17–21}.

Hanzlikova and co-authors have supposed overlapping roles of PARP1 and PARP2 in the implementation of BER and/or single-strand break repair processes²⁴. They have found that the activity of PARPs is important for recruiting the key repair proteins XRCC1 and PNKP to chromatin lesions.

In addition, there are some data on the affinity for PARP2 and its activation by various DNA substrates; thus, it is clear that this enzyme can be involved in later stages of BER^{7,13,25–27}. Moreover, the interactions of PARP2 with BER proteins XRCC1, Pol β and LigIIIa have been demonstrated in HeLa cells²⁸. Recently, the specificity of the interaction of PARP1 and PARP2 with various BER intermediates was analysed by atomic force microscopy (AFM) using long DNA duplex substrates, and the data speak in favour of PARP2 contribution to the later stages of BER²⁶. Nevertheless, the final function of PARP2 in this process is not clear.

To date, the main biochemical steps of BER have been investigated fairly well. The bulk of experimental data on the activity of BER proteins has been obtained by means of naked DNA. On the other hand, most of attention is now focused on the regulation of DNA repair in the chromatin context^{29,30}. There are many studies revealing the efficiency of individual BER stages by means of nucleosomes, but there are hardly any data about the roles of nuclear PARPs and their activities in this process [reviewed in Refs.^{31,32}]. Accordingly, it is interesting how BER is regulated by the nuclear PARPs and how the roles are distributed between different PARPs. Therefore, the aim of this study was to compare the interaction of PARP1 and PARP2 with nucleosomes containing various types of damaged DNA and the influence of PARylation catalysed by these enzymes on BER stages operating with BER proteins (APE1, Pol β , XRCC1 and LigIIIa) at the nucleosomal level (Fig. 1C). On the basis of relevant literature data and our present results, we propose that different stages of BER are regulated by PARP1 and PARP2, and the effect depends on PARylation.

Results

PARP1 or PARP2 efficacy in the interaction with and activation by a damaged nucleosome core particle (NCP). The influence of PARPs and/or of PARylation on the BER process in the nucleosomal context may be complicated due to substrate complexity. The lowest level of DNA compaction in chromatin is the NCP, which consists of a 147 bp DNA wrapped around the histone octamer core: two H2A, H2B, H3 and H4; this compaction level affects DNA–protein interactions³³. It should be noted that with this DNA wrapping, the accessibility of heterocyclic bases to DNA–protein interactions varies greatly with the DNA sequence and nucleotide position^{34–36}. There is a special nomenclature for the spatial orientation of the bases: ‘inward’ if the base is turned towards the histone core, and ‘outward’ if the base is facing out^{31,37}. Some bases may have an intermediate, ‘midward’, orientation³⁵. The orientation of the base directly affects the DNA–protein interactions and therefore functional activity of the enzymes. Outward-oriented nucleobases are the most accessible to repair enzymes; on the contrary, inward-oriented nucleobases are the least accessible for interactions. In an assay of DNA–protein interaction, the use of substrates with an inward orientation of damage will complicate the assessment of the potential contribution of the positional effect, owing to steric hindrance. For these reasons, to assess the effects of PARP1, PARP2 and PARylation on the activity of BER enzymes, NCPs with outward- or midward-oriented damage were tested in our study (Fig. 1A).

To determine the contribution of the interaction of PARP1 or PARP2 with DNA or histone components of an NCP in the BER process, the affinity of the PARPs for native, AP-NCP or gap-NCP was evaluated by fluorescence measurements (Table 1, Supplementary Fig. S2A–E).

PARP1 generally proved to have high affinity for the NCP as well as for DNA. We noticed a lack of strong differences in K_d between the complexes of PARP1 with the NCP or with DNA; this finding could be explained by high affinity of the protein for DNA blunt ends. In our case, the interaction of PARP1 with a specific DNA damage site such as an AP site or gap likely can be masked by an interplay of this protein with a nearby blunt end of the DNA duplex.

The character of the PARP2 interaction with DNA or an NCP is more complicated than that of PARP1. Our data uncovered low affinity of PARP2 for an undamaged or AP site–containing naked DNA; for comparison, the affinity of PARP2 for gapped DNA was higher by one order of magnitude. Additionally, PARP2 manifested dramatically higher affinity for an NCP than for naked DNA. PARP2 was found to have one order of magnitude higher affinity for outward-oriented damage in an NCP as compared to midward-oriented one. Moreover, PARP2 prefers the gap-containing DNA duplex in the nucleosomal context, as is the case for naked DNA (Table 1, Supplementary Fig. S2A–E).

The interaction of PARP1 or PARP2 with different types of outward-oriented NCP was additionally tested by the electrophoretic mobility shift assay (EMSA; Supplementary Table S1, Supplementary Figs. S2H,I). The results illustrate basic patterns of interactions for both PARPs as determined by the fluorescence measurements. Moreover, the K_d values obtained by the EMSA revealed the affinity of PARP1 for the gapped substrate.

It is known that the PARP activation efficiency poorly correlates with the affinity of the protein for the substrate but is largely determined by the cooperative interplay of the molecule’s domains upon interaction with the

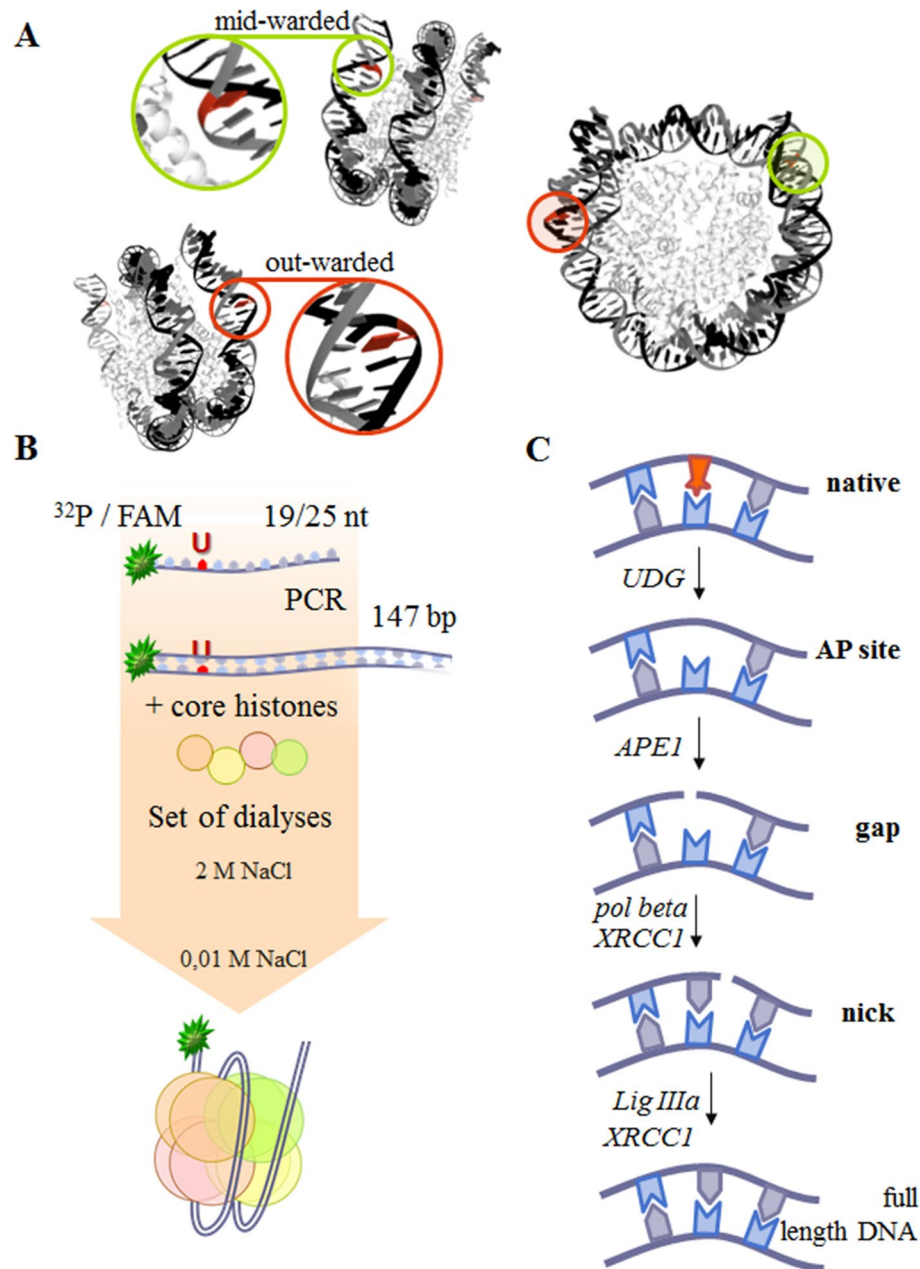


Figure 1. (A) Nucleosome structure pictured according to Ref.⁸⁶ and was created using RCSB PDB online version specifically <https://www.rcsb.org/structure/3LZ0>. The red nucleobases depict the positions of midward- or outward-oriented lesions. (B) The scheme of preparation of different types of NCPs. The coloured line corresponds to the DNA strand, whereas the green asterisk to the 5' [^{32}P] or FAM label. (C) Stages of BER with the participating enzymes and substrates tested in this study.

substrate^{38,39}. In the present work, PARP1/PARP2 activation efficacy was studied in the presence of either DNA or NCP (either native or containing various damage types) using [^{32}P]radioactive NAD^+ incorporation into a growing ADP-ribose polymer chain. The findings are presented in Fig. 2.

In general, the data obtained with the NCP containing mid- or outward-oriented damage or with subsequent DNA were in good agreement with each other for both PARPs. Upon PARP1 activation by the NCP, the efficiency of radioactive PAR synthesis was higher as compared to the activation by naked DNA, especially in the absence of the internal lesions (Fig. 2A,C). At the same time, an internal lesion in the DNA structure caused a decrease in the total amount of synthesized PAR as NAD^+ concentration was increased up to 1000 μM , regardless of the presence of a nucleosomal structure; the maximal inhibition of PAR synthesis was seen upon PARP1 interaction with gapped substrates (Fig. 2B,D).

The efficiency of PARP2 activation upon the interaction with a nucleosome was approximately the same as that with the activation by free DNA; the only exception was gap-NCP (Fig. 2E,G). The total amount of PAR

	DNA			NCP		
	Native	AP site	Gap	Native	AP site	Gap
K_d, nM, for substrates with outward-oriented damage						
PARP1	14 ± 3	23 ± 3	29 ± 5	14 ± 2	7 ± 3	10 ± 2
PARP2	839 ± 89	811 ± 79	58 ± 6	156 ± 14	160 ± 10	14 ± 2
K_d, nM, for substrates with midward-oriented damage						
PARP1	14 ± 3	23 ± 3	25 ± 5	11 ± 1	12 ± 1	14 ± 1
PARP2	608 ± 54	690 ± 71	145 ± 12	151 ± 10	162 ± 11	128 ± 7

Table 1. The affinity of PARP1 and PARP2 for native, AP site-containing or gap-containing substrates as determined by fluorescence anisotropy measurements.

synthesised in the presence of a gap in the nucleosome structure was significantly lower too (Fig. 2F,H). This effect seems especially remarkable in the nucleosomal context because the amount of PAR synthesised in the presence of naked DNA did not change after the appearance of the lesions.

In our study intended to examine the contribution of PARylation to the binding of a nucleosome by PARP1 or PARP2, real-time fluorescence anisotropy measurements of PARPs' activity were performed in the presence of NAD^{+40} . These experiments were carried out with NCP substrates containing an outward-oriented lesion (Table 2, Supplementary Fig. S2F,G). Here, K_M values are presented as a complex constant reflecting the processes of PARP binding to the NCP, NAD^{+} binding by a PARP's NAD^{+} -binding site, subsequent conformational changes of the PARP–NCP complex, catalysis of PARylation, the dissociation of the PARylated PARP–NCP complex, and size changes of the PARP–NCP complex driven by PAR synthesis. The obtained k_{obs} values likely reflect an overlay of the following effects: nucleosome refolding and dissociation of the PARylated PARP–NCP complex.

The k_{obs} values for PARP2 PARylation were lower as compared to PARP1. PARP1 relatively quickly dissociated as compared to PARP2. This result may be explained by the lowered activity of PARylation catalysed by PARP2 and consequently the rate of dissociation of PARylated PARP2 from the substrate^{7,41}.

Only insignificant dissimilarities in K_M among different NCP structures were observed for PARP1. Nevertheless, k_{obs} increased under PARP1 PARylation in the following order: native NCP ≤ AP-NCP < gap-NCP. Keeping in mind that the K_d values are relatively similar, this finding can be attributed to the effective interaction of PARP1 with the blunt ends of DNA duplexes and relatively whipping dissociation of the autoPARylated protein from the substrate.

As for PARP2, all the analysed parameters are more than an order of magnitude higher as compared to PARP1. The K_M value for the gapped substrate is higher than that for the native or AP site-containing structure. By contrast, k_{obs} increased in the following order: native NCP < AP-NCP < gap-NCP.

Therefore, our data are suggestive of the expected contribution of PARP1 at the different stages of BER. As for PARP2, its contribution is expected at later stages of the BER process, starting from the formation of gapped substrates. The character of the interaction of PARP2 with the damaged NCP reveals an impact of the interaction with nucleosomal proteins or a significant modification of the interaction with DNA in the nucleosomal context.

The activity of APE1 and effects of PARP1 and PARP2. Numerous studies on APE1 involving both naked DNA and an NCP indicate that the nucleosomal organisation of DNA poses an obstacle for the access to an AP site. Therefore, at the beginning of our study, specific conditions were found that ensured equivalent APE1 efficiency between nucleosomes with an midward- or outward-oriented AP site (mid-NCP and out-NCP, respectively; Fig. 3). As expected, the processing of midward-oriented damage required more than tenfold higher concentration of the enzyme. It should be noted that the stability of the nucleosomal DNA duplex proved to be extremely high even under denaturing conditions, thus giving rise to two bands of DNA on the electropherograms: corresponding to single-stranded and double-stranded 5'-FAM-labelled DNA (Fig. 3F).

At the next stage, the influence of the PARPs on the AP site cleavage was investigated. For this purpose, for correct detection of the inhibitory or stimulatory effects of PARPs and PARylation, the reaction conditions were chosen that yielded 40–50% substrate cleavage. It turned out that regardless of the damage orientation, PARP1 suppressed the activity of APE1 (Fig. 3A,B). The synthesis of PAR by PARP1 in the presence of NAD^{+} , accompanied by the autoPARylation of PARP1, substantially restored the magnitude of cleavage of both NCP substrates by APE1 (Fig. 3E).

Regarding PARP2, it did not exert a significant effect on the AP site cleavage either by itself or under PARylation conditions (Fig. 3C–E). It is noteworthy that the impact of PARP2 depended on neither substrate organization nor the rotational position of the damage.

It should be pointed out that the patterns of the influence of PARP1 or PARP2 and PARylation on the APE1 activity towards naked DNA were similar with the patterns towards out-NCP and mid-NCP, although the effects of PARP1 were stronger (Fig. 3E).

Moreover, the presence of PARG in the case of PARylation catalysed by PARP1 and PARP2 did not influence APE1 activity dramatically, probably owing to incomplete cleavage of the PAR polymer attached to PARPs (Supplementary Figs. S3–S6).

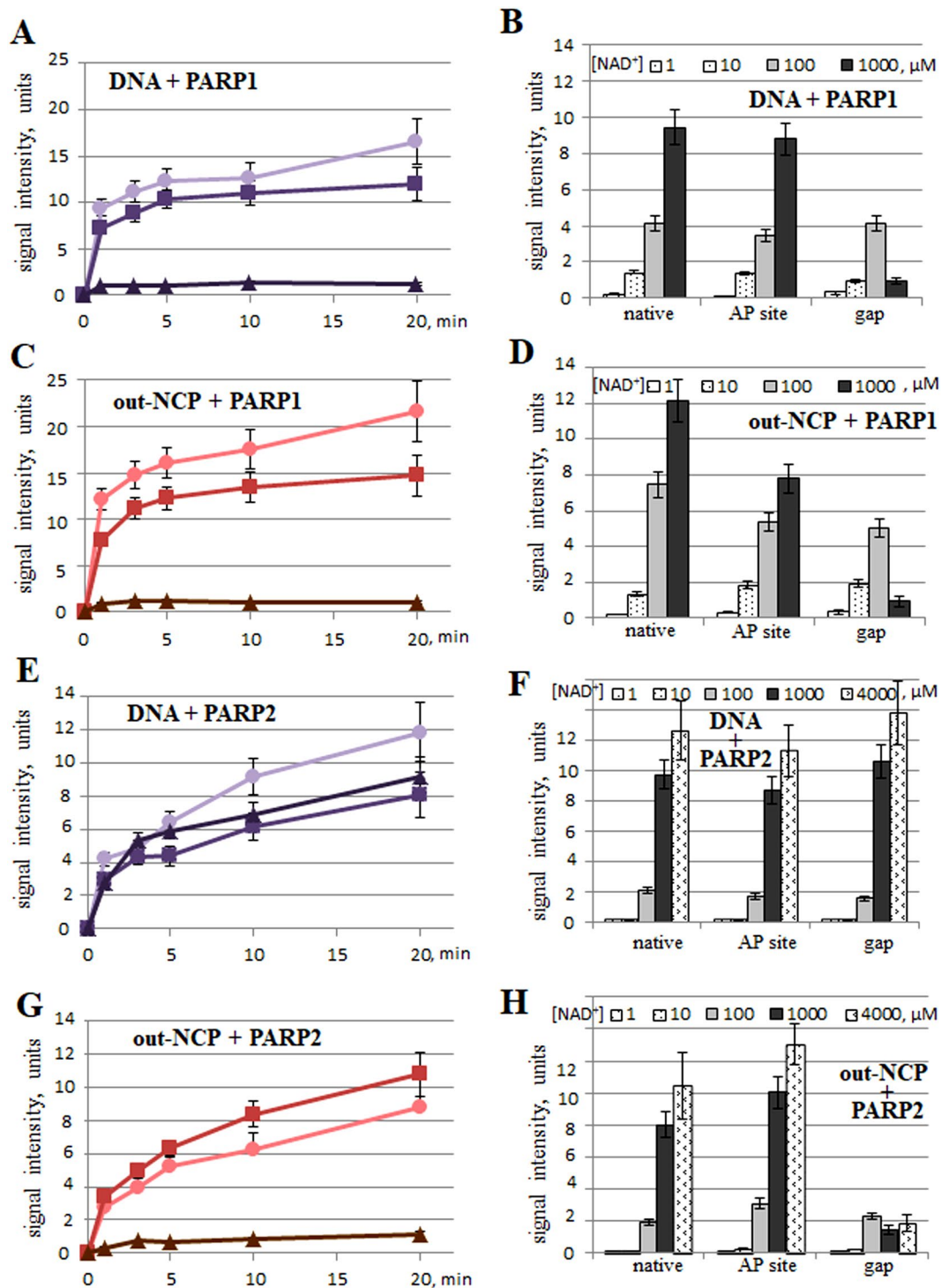


Figure 2. The activation of PARP1 and PARP2 by DNA or an NCP as measured by the amount of a poly(ADP-ribose) synthesised by PARP1 or PARP2 using [32 P]labelled NAD $^{+}$ as a precursor. The graphs in panels (A–D) deal with PARP1 activation. The graphs in panels (E–H) are about PARP2 activation. In all the graphs, the data obtained with a native substrate are indicated by (circle), with AP-NCP by (square) and with gap-NCP by (triangle). The graphs in panels in the left part represent the accumulation kinetics of PAR at 1000 μ M NAD $^{+}$; the histograms in panels in the right part represent the total amount of PAR synthesised by PARP1 for 1 min or by PARP2 for 3 min at NAD $^{+}$ concentrations 1–1000 μ M or 1–4000 μ M, respectively. In all the graphs, the experimental data on DNA substrates are characterised by black, reddish-violet or violet curves; the NCP substrates correspond to the red or yellowish-green curves. The data are presented as an average of at least three independent experiments and are shown as the mean \pm SD. The reactions were carried out as described in “Materials and methods”.

	K_M , μM			$k_{\text{obs}} \times 10^{-3}$, s^{-1}		
	Native	AP site	Gap	Native	AP site	Gap
Substrates carrying an outward-oriented damage site						
PARP1	11 ± 2	14 ± 3	11 ± 2	12.5 ± 0.12	13.3 ± 0.07	15.0 ± 0.06
PARP2	225 ± 20	250 ± 18	325 ± 23	0.47 ± 0.12	0.60 ± 0.009	0.86 ± 0.06

Table 2. K_M and k_{obs} values for PARylation by PARP1 or PARP2 during the interaction with a native NCP, AP-NCP or gap-NCP according to fluorescence anisotropy measurements.

DNA synthesis catalysed by Pol β in the presence of PARP1 or PARP2. At the next stage of general BER, it was necessary to assess the ability of Pol β to process gap-NCP (Fig. 4A,B and Supplementary Fig. S3). It turned out that the efficacy of DNA synthesis differed 20-fold between the substrates with an outward- or midward-oriented lesion [$k_{\text{cat(out-NCP)}} \approx 178 \pm 23 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$ and $k_{\text{cat(mid-NCP)}} \approx 9.7 \pm 0.8 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$]; however, K_M values were very similar [$K_{M(\text{out-NCP})} \approx 1.05 \pm 0.17 \mu\text{M}$ and $K_{M(\text{mid-NCP})} \approx 0.79 \pm 0.10 \mu\text{M}$].

In all the cases, maximal velocities of dTMP incorporation were dramatically lower in the presence of PARP1, down to total inhibition of DNA synthesis at the PARP1 concentration of $\geq 100 \text{ nM}$. Additionally, an increase in K_M for out-NCP was observed [$K_{M(\text{out-NCP})} \approx 20.5 \pm 1.7 \mu\text{M}$] in the presence of 100 nM PARP1. The PARylation catalysed by PARP1 reverted the changes in both kinetic parameters but did not return them to their initial levels (Fig. 4A,C and Supplementary Fig. S7).

Under PARylation conditions, PAR hydrolysis by PARG also did not have a strong effect on the restoration of PARP1's inhibition of Pol β (Supplementary Figs. S3, S4, S8 and S9).

It is noteworthy that the bell-shaped peak of the curves for substrate mid-NCP slightly shifted to the side of higher concentrations of NAD^+ .

An important component of the BER processes is XRCC1, which is reported to play a role of a scaffold protein⁴². In our study, the influence of PARPs and PARylation on Pol β activity was investigated in the presence of XRCC1 too.

Basically, in the assay of Pol β activity, the presence of XRCC1 did not lead to dramatic changes in the kinetic parameters of DNA synthesis at the concentrations close to Pol β levels (data not shown). This effect was independent from the substrate type.

Nevertheless, XRCC1 had a slight protective effect against PARP1-driven inhibition of Pol β activity, where the influence of XRCC1 in the assay with out-NCP was more significant (Supplementary Figs. S7, Fig. 3C,D).

The presence of XRCC1 during the PARylation catalysed by PARP1 did not cause a significant change in DNA synthesis efficacy regardless of the NCP substrate type (Fig. 4C,D).

The presence of PARP2—just as that of PARP1—decreased the Pol β activity (Fig. 4E and Supplementary Fig. S3). Indeed, it decreased the maximal velocities of dTMP incorporation in all cases [$k_{\text{cat(out-NCP)}} \approx 26.7 \pm 2.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$ and $k_{\text{cat(mid-NCP)}} \approx 5.1 \pm 0.6 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$] but not as dramatically as PARP1 did for substrate mid-NCP. An increase in K_M values in the presence of 100 nM PARP2 was observed too [$K_{M(\text{out-NCP})} \approx 21.2 \pm 1.8 \mu\text{M}$ and $K_{M(\text{mid-NCP})} \approx 5.7 \pm 0.7 \mu\text{M}$]. Therefore, PARP2 caused inhibition of the DNA synthesis catalysed by Pol β .

The PARylation catalysed by PARP2 did not positively affect the intensity of DNA synthesis in a wide range of NAD^+ concentrations, especially for substrate out-NCP (Fig. 4E).

The main difference of the effects of PARP2 and PARylation from the effects of PARP1 on Pol β activity was attributed to the influence of XRCC1. The presence of the scaffold protein substantially weakened PARP2's inhibition of both NCP structures (Supplementary Fig. S7, Fig. 4E,F). Moreover, an additional decrease in the dTMP incorporation level was observed at the highest concentrations of NAD^+ (Fig. 4F).

The LigIII α activity and effects of PARP1 and PARP2. The main role at the last stage of BER is ascribed to LigIII α . Accordingly, a lot of data support specific complex formation between DNA LigIII α and XRCC1; the DNA ligase activity on an NCP has been investigated in the absence or presence of an equimolar concentration of XRCC1^{43,44}. In our study, well-quantifiable data were not obtained with a mid-NCP substrate in the reaction with LigIII α . Odell and co-authors have reported that the efficiency of LigIII α in complex with XRCC1 is unaffected by the helical orientation of the nick in nucleosomes, supposedly because of the disruption of nick-containing nucleosomes by the protein complex⁴⁵. The model NCP tested in our study contains a midward-oriented lesion at the seventh position from the 5' end of the DNA duplex; consequently, it could be unstable and could dissociate from the NCP under LigIII α action, consistently with the above suggestion. For this reason, further experiments were performed on substrate out-NCP only.

It was determined that the use of a higher concentration of LigIII α does not dramatically change the level of the final 5'-FAM-labelled reaction product but drives the formation of a protein–nucleic acid complex that was not resolved by electrophoresis (Supplementary Fig. S11). To decompose these complexes, we conducted treatment with proteinase K in all types of the reactions and treatment with PARG in the reactions with NAD^+ . In addition, we switched to a more sensitive label, isotope 32 of phosphorus, present at one of the 5' ends of a DNA duplex of an NCP (Fig. 5 and Supplementary Fig. S11). It should be noted that a small amount of the full-length DNA strand was detectable in these protein–nucleic acid complexes; this was not the case for the short part of the DNA substrate that is marked as a primer in the figures. Therefore, the extent of ligation was evaluated by means of the proportion of the unreacted primer.

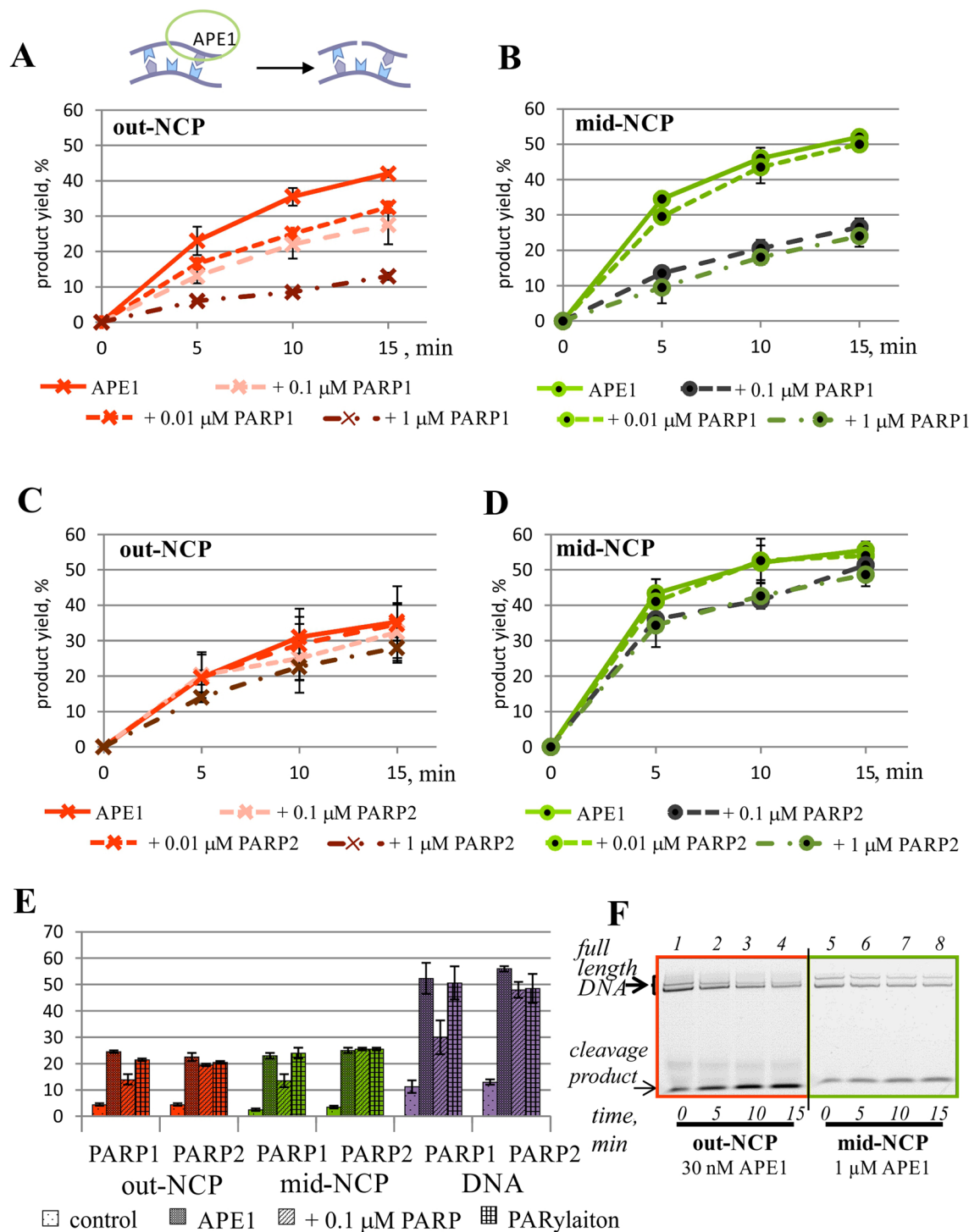


Figure 3. The kinetic assay of APE1 activity towards an outward- or midward-oriented AP site in the NCP context in the presence of PARP1 or PARP2. (A) Kinetics for out-NCP and PARP1. (B) Kinetics for mid-NCP and PARP1. (C) Kinetics for out-NCP and PARP2. (D) Kinetics for mid-NCP and PARP2. (E) The influence of PARylation catalysed by PARP1 or PARP2 on the activity of APE1 towards AP site-containing DNA or NCP-based substrates. The ‘control’ label corresponds to the spontaneous cleavage of the AP site; ‘APE1’ indicates the specific cleavage by APE1 under the reaction conditions; ‘+0.1 μM PARP’ denotes the specific cleavage in the presence of the indicated protein; and ‘PARylation’ represents the specific cleavage in the presence of the indicated protein and 400 μM NAD⁺. The data are presented as an average of at least three independent experiments and are shown as the mean \pm SD. The reactions were carried out as described in “Materials and methods”. All graphs are normalised to spontaneous cleavage of an AP site under the experimental conditions. (F) Separation of the products (on a 10% denaturing polyacrylamide gel) of the reaction of 0.1 μM 5'-FAM-labelled AP-NCP with APE1 under the indicated experimental conditions. In all cases, the APE concentrations of 0.03 and 1 μM were chosen for the reaction conditions involving substrates out-NCP and mid-NCP, respectively.

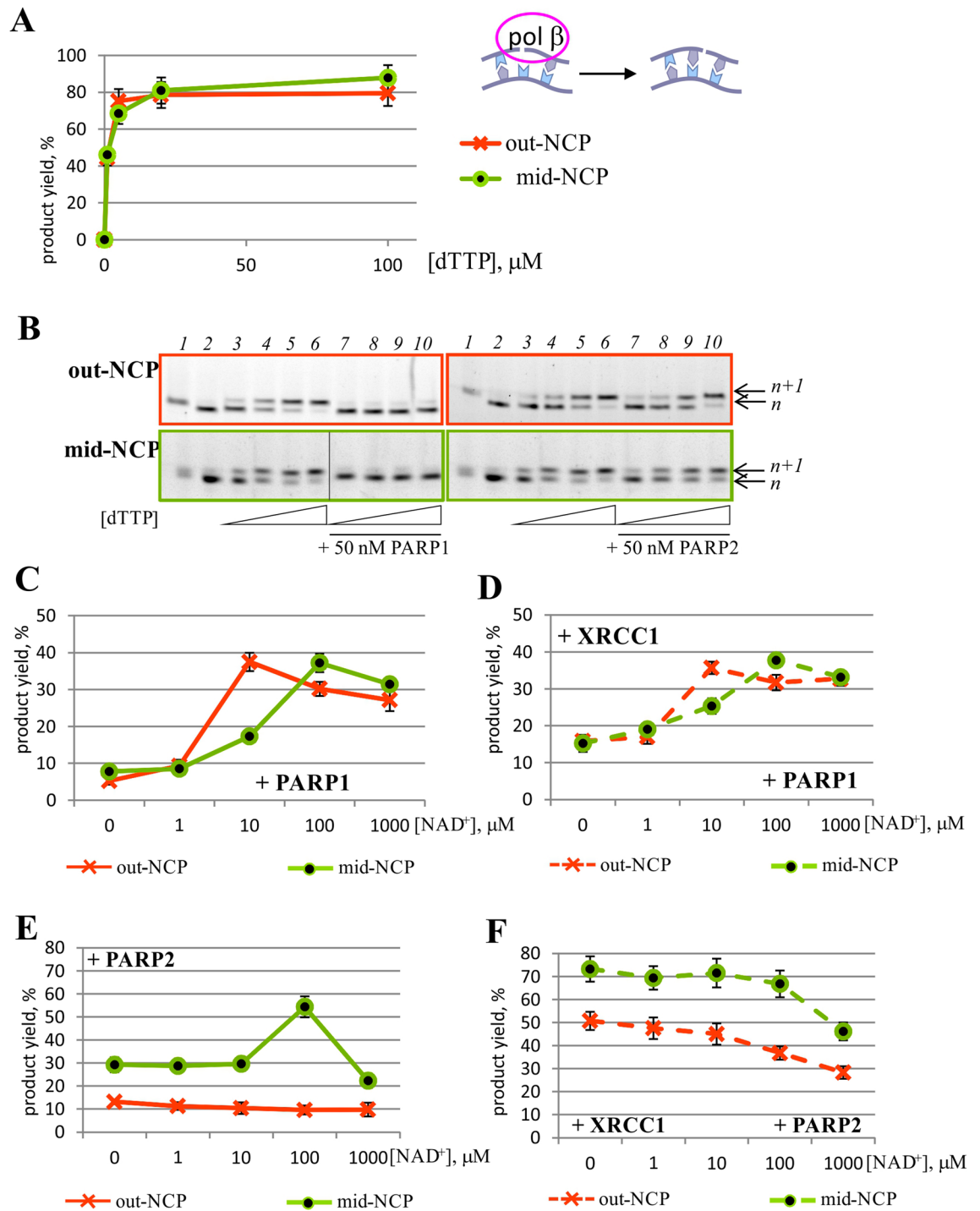


Figure 4. The activity of Pol β towards gap-NCP substrates by itself (A,B) and during PARylation catalysed by PARP1 (C,D) or PARP2 (E,F) in the absence (A–C,E) or presence of XRCC1 (D,F). The graphs in panels (C–F) represent the data obtained at 10 μM dTTP and 50 nM PARP1 or PARP2. The data are presented as an average of at least three independent experiments and are shown as the mean \pm SD. (B) The reaction products of dTTP incorporation by Pol β (lanes 3–6) in the presence of PARP1 (left part) or PARP2 (right part, lanes 7–10) when outward- (upper panel) or midward-oriented (lower panel) 5'-FAM-labelled gap-NCP was employed. Lane 1: substrate AP-NCP, lane 2: substrate gap-NCP. In all cases, Pol β concentrations of 2.5 and 50 nM were chosen as the reaction conditions for substrates out-NCP and mid-NCP, respectively. The reaction products were separated on a 15% denaturing polyacrylamide gel.

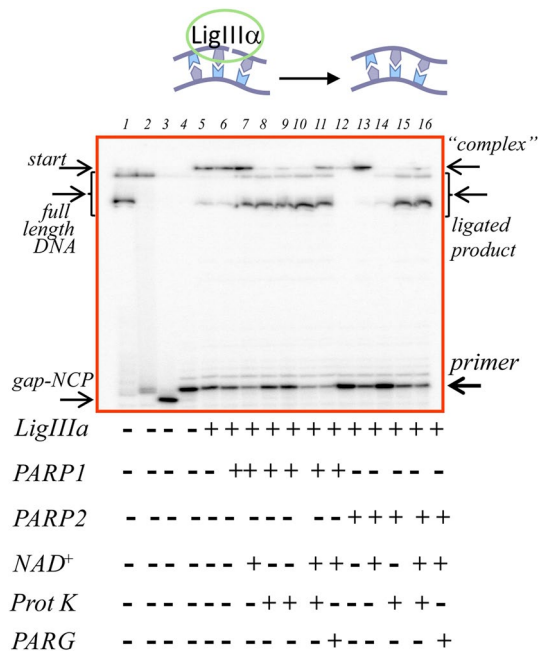


Figure 5. The LigIIIα activity on nicked substrate out-NCP. Product separation after the sealing of 5′[³²P] labelled nicked out-NCP by LigIIIα with PARP1 or PARP2 and PARylation in the presence of XRCC1. Lane 1: native out-NCP; lane 2: out-NCP incubated with UDG; lane 3: out-NCP incubated with UDG and APE1; lane 4: out-NCP incubated with UDG, APE1, Polβ and dTTP, resulting in nicked out-NCP; lanes 5–16: nick sealing in the presence of LigIIIα (lanes 5, 8) and PARP1 (lanes 6, 9) or PARP2 (lanes 12, 14) without or with NAD⁺ (lanes 7, 10, 11 and 13, 15, 16, respectively). Lanes 8–10 and 14–15 correspond to lanes 5–7 and 12–13 with an additional treatment (with proteinase K), respectively. Lanes 11 and 16 correspond to lanes 7 and 13 with an additional treatment (with PARG). The data are presented for experiments involving 20 nM NCP, 500 nM LigIIIα, 500 nM XRCC1, 100 nM PARP1 or PARP2 and 100 μM NAD⁺.

The influence of PARP1 and PARP2 on the LigIIIα activity was investigated in the absence or presence of NAD⁺ (Fig. 6). The following conclusions can be drawn from these experiments. PARP1 as well as PARP2 exerted an inhibitory effect on the LigIIIα activity under the experimental conditions (compare the bars of the first group with the second and fourth one in Fig. 6). PARylation attenuates their inhibition and increases the yield of the reaction product. It must be noted that PARP2 exerts these effects to a greater extent than PARP1 does (compare the difference in bars between the second and third group with the difference between the fourth and fifth group in Fig. 6). The presence of XRCC1 had no dramatic impact on the LigIIIα activity in our model system (bars of the first, third, fourth and fifth groups in Fig. 6); however, it slightly attenuated the sealing inhibition caused by PARP1 (bars of the second group in Fig. 6).

In summary, our experiments point to a specific influence of PARP1, PARP2 and PARylation on the activity of the main BER enzymes (APE1, Polβ and LigIIIα) with XRCC1 on an NCP. It was found that PARP1 suppresses the activity of APE1, Polβ and to a smaller extent LigIIIα. PARP2 exerts a significant effect on the activity of LigIIIα only. The decreases in the activities of APE1 and Polβ are reversed in the presence of the PARylation catalysed by PARP1 and to a lesser extent by PARP2. Meanwhile, the complementation with XRCC1 protects the dNMP transferase activity of Polβ from the inhibition by PARP1 and PARP2. Moreover, this complementation slightly affects the intensity of DNA synthesis under the PARylation catalysed by PARP1 and leads to a decrease of Polβ activity in case of PARylation by PARP2, in a NAD⁺-dependent manner. A remarkable result was obtained in the assay of DNA sealing by LigIIIα. This reaction is stimulated by the PARylation catalysed by PARP2. It is worth mentioning that outward-oriented lesions are more accessible to all the enzymes, and their processing requires a lower enzyme concentration and PAR level. More PAR is needed for the repair of more hidden damage sites.

Discussion

At present, a substantial amount of data is available about the interaction of PARP1 or PARP2 with various DNA structures^{7,25–27,39,46–51}. The data on the affinity of PARP1 and PARP2 for structures are quite different among these works. The information about the structure of DNA substrates effective at PARP1 or PARP2 activation is also quite different among various sources^{7,25,39}. This fact can be explained by the inconsistent research approaches and by the use of dissimilar DNA models. For example, during the interaction with blunt ends of approximately 25–35 bp DNA duplexes, PARP1 or PARP2 can come into contact with a nearby internal damage site. In one study⁴⁹, AFM analyses were performed on double-strand DNAs more than 1 kbp long containing damage at a substantial distance from the blunt ends and thus excluding an overlap of the PARP1 or PARP2 interaction with various damage sites. It was found⁴⁹ that PARP1 manifests high affinity for a single-strand break in DNA and

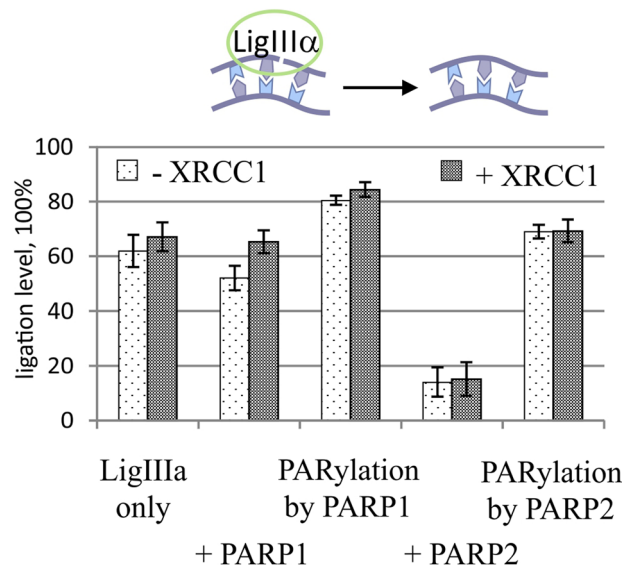


Figure 6. The influence of PARP1 or PARP2 and PARylation on the LigIII α activity in the absence or presence of XRCC1. The ligation magnitude of the 5' [32 P]labelled nicked NCP substrate under the action of LigIII α was affected by PARP1 or PARP2 and PARylation in the absence or presence of XRCC1. The ligation magnitude was calculated as a percentage of the unreacted primer subtracted from 100%. The data come from experiments involving 20 nM NCP, 500 nM LigIII α , 100 nM PARP1 or PARP2 and 100 μ M NAD $^{+}$. The data are presented as an average of at least three independent experiments and are shown as the mean values \pm SD.

similar affinity for blunt ends; PARP2 showed high affinity for a single-strand break and low affinity for blunt ends. The activity of both proteins towards the analysed DNA with a given type of damage correlated with these proteins' affinity, though the activity of PARP2 was always lower as compared to PARP1⁴⁹. Additionally, in search of a possible specific role of PARP1 and PARP2, the interactions of these proteins with DNA structures mimicking various stages BER intermediates have been investigated by AFM²⁶. In that study, the AFM data indicated that PARP1 has higher affinity for early BER intermediates containing an AP site or a gap with a 5'-deoxyribose phosphate than PARP2 does, whereas PARP2 interacts more efficiently with a 5'-phosphorylated nick and may contribute to the regulation of the final ligation step.

In our work, we determined the contribution of different DNA lesions (such as a blunt end, AP site or 5'-phosphorylated gap) to the PARP1 or PARP2 interaction with components of an NCP (Table 1). As for PARP1, it possess high affinity for the blunt-ended part of the DNA duplex in the NCP, in good agreement with previously reported data on PARP1 affinity⁴⁹.

The behaviour of PARP2 during the interaction with the substrates was more complicated (Table 1). PARP2 manifested extremely high affinity for gapped DNA, in line with previously published findings^{26,49}. Additionally, the strong increase in PARP2 affinity for gapped NCP is suggestive of a significant contribution of PARP2's interaction with the histone core of an NCP.

EMSA results point to the complexity of the interaction of each PARP with different NCPs owing to the presence of several PARP–NCP complexes, which could correspond to independent and simultaneous formation of complexes between PARP and blunt ends of DNA, a damage site, and/or histones (Supplementary Fig. S2H,I). Overall, on the basis of our results, we can suggest that during the association of PARP1 with an NCP, the protein–nucleic acid interactions may be predominant. For PARP2, the two processes could compete with each other: protein–protein and protein–DNA interactions.

It is noteworthy that the activation of PARP1 upon interaction with DNA is mostly determined by the specific conformational changes of PARP1 structure in the complex with damaged DNA upon NAD $^{+}$ binding and after activation^{52–54}. Furthermore, PARP1 shows additional specificity during the interaction with an NCP. SpFRET microscopy experiments indicate that in vitro binding of PARP1 to chromatin leads to a considerable change in nucleosome structure, which may be described as nucleosome unfolding and can be almost completely reversed by autoPARylation⁵⁵. In our study, we investigated the PARPs' activity during their interaction with a native or damaged NCP by real-time measurement of fluorescence anisotropy as well as by the detection of the total amount of synthesised PAR.

It was determined that the k_{obs} values after PARP1 PARylation were dependent on the damage type and were higher for gap-NCP at almost equal K_M values (Table 2). This variation may reflect the efficacy of PARP1 activation in the presence of undamaged DNA or various types of DNA damage: the AP site or gap^{20,26,49}. The existence of a specific damage site in the DNA in addition to a blunt end could result in the binding of additional PARP1 molecules to the lesion. This event leads to modulation of the efficiency of PAR synthesis and thereby to a change in the rate of dissociation of autoPARylated PARP1 from the complex with a damaged NCP characterised by higher k_{obs} .

We found that PARP1 is most efficiently activated upon the interaction with the native NCP or AP-NCP, but not with the gapped NCP (Fig. 2C,D). It is possible that the presence of a lesion in the nucleosomal DNA can significantly affect the geometry of the PARP1–NCP complex. In our structure, the lesion is located close enough to the blunt-ended part of the DNA helix. Possibly, such a mutual arrangement of two PARP1-binding sites leads to the formation of a non-productive PARP1–NCP complex where more than one PARP1 molecule binds to the substrate, with the corresponding alteration of the PAR amount.

At the same time, an increase in k_{obs} values upon introduction of a lesion into the DNA part of the nucleosome—in the absence of a significant difference in PARP1 affinity for the substrate—could be a consequence of the dissociation of a less productive complex that requires a smaller amount of the ADP-ribose polymer.

PARP2 similarly does not manifest a direct correlation between the affinity for a DNA structure and activation efficiency⁷. Recent studies, however, including studies on nucleosomes, revealed certain features of DNA structures (such as various DNA breaks with a 5'-phosphate group) that are necessary for the efficient binding and/or activation of PARP2^{25–27,39,49,51}. Taking into account the kinetic parameters and affinity of PARP2 obtained in our experiments (Tables 1, 2), we can conclude that PARP2 activation can be explained by the formation of a stronger but less productive PARP2-gapped NCP complex. In an assay of the PARylation by fluorescence anisotropy at a low NAD^+ concentration, as indicated by a part of the titration curve with a small slope up to 200 μM NAD^+ , a larger contribution to the k_{obs} constant is made by the interaction of PARP2 with a NAD^+ molecule (Supplementary Fig. S2E,G). At a high NAD^+ concentration, the k_{obs} constant more strongly reflects the dissociation rate of the complex, as evidenced by the increasing amplitude of k_{obs} curves with the increasing NAD^+ concentration above 1250 μM . Thus, it is possible that the dissociation of PARylated PARP2 from the complex with the gapped NCP takes longer but becomes more efficient with an increase in NAD^+ concentration.

It should be pointed out that the amount of PAR synthesized by PARP2 upon the activation by different types of naked DNA does not vary depending on the structures, although the affinity of PARP2 for gapped DNA is also significantly higher. Additionally, PARP2 generally proved to have low affinity for DNA compared to an NCP. It is possible that in the absence of histones and/or a more rigid nucleosomal structure, upon the interaction with DNA, the PARP2-gapped DNA complex shows excessive conformational dynamics, making it possible to increase the amount of the productive complex and, accordingly, to increase the PAR yield.

Therefore, collectively, our data are suggestive of the expected contribution of PARP1 starting from the initial stages of BER. As for PARP2, its contribution is expected at later stages of the BER process, starting from the formation of gapped substrates. The character of the interaction of PARP2 with the damaged NCP reveals a significant impact of the interaction with nucleosomal proteins.

APE1 is the main enzyme processing AP sites in higher eukaryotes. Its activity is highly dependent on the bases surrounding an AP site and on secondary structure of the DNA substrate [reviewed in Refs.^{56,57}]. In the case of an NCP, the orientation of the AP site towards the histone core is important for the realisation of APE1 activity^{58–60}.

We observed APE1 activity suppression in the presence of PARP1 and substantial restoration of the AP site cleavage level in the presence of PARylation regardless of the damage orientation. These results are consistent with previous studies on model naked DNA^{20,41}. These observations can be ascribed to the competition between APE1 and PARP1 for the binding to an AP site. The interaction of PARP1 with an AP site has been demonstrated previously, and at high concentrations, PARP1 can compete with APE1 for the binding to an AP site²⁰. In addition, PARP1 forms complexes with the blunt-ended part of DNA and thus can sterically prevent the interaction of APE1 with the closely located AP site. The PARylation initiated by the binding to damaged DNA results in the formation of a negatively charged polymer on the PARP1 surface thereby promoting its dissociation from DNA owing to electrostatic repulsion and opens the access of APE1 to the substrate. Therefore, the PARylation catalysed by PARP1 restores the AP endonuclease activity of APE1 and diminishes its inhibition by PARP1.

PARP2 only slightly affected APE1 activity regardless of substrate complexity (naked DNA or NCP), and PARylation did not reverse this inhibition. This finding can be explained by the low affinity of PARP2 for AP site-containing DNAs as revealed in this study and earlier by rather low reaction rates of PARP2 under PARylation^{26,41}. On the other hand, PARP2 showed stronger affinity for NCP than for naked DNA. Taken together, these data further support the notion that PARP2 interacts with an NCP not only through the DNA component but also through the histones, and likely their PARylation or other post-translational modifications can influence the PARP2 interaction with a gapped NCP.

The formation of a gap with 3'-hydroxyl and 5'-dRp groups in a DNA requires the DNA polymerisation activity for BER extension, specifically the activity of Pol β . Among the complexes of the other key BER proteins with scaffold BER protein XRCC1, Pol β forms the most stable complex with it²². In our experiments, we tested the ability of Pol β to carry out dNMP incorporation in the absence or presence of XRCC1 and the influence of PARP1 or PARP2 and PARylation on this activity using in- and out-NCP.

It is possible that the inhibition of DNA synthesis by PARP1 and the subsequent increase in the Pol β reaction yield in the presence of NAD^+ is a consequence of the following effects. It should be noted that the binding of PARP1 to a nucleosome causes partial NCP de-compaction in the vicinity of a double-strand break⁵⁵. Such de-compaction may increase the access of Pol β to the damage site and enhance the enzymatic activity towards our NCP models. Moreover, an increase in Pol β activity after damage dislocation towards the blunt ends has been documented⁶¹. Nevertheless, the proximity of the single-strand break to the blunt ends of a DNA duplex may start protein–protein competition for the substrate between PARP1 and Pol β . Under PARylation conditions, the inhibition is attenuated by the dissociation of PARylated PARP1. The recovery of Pol β activity in the presence of PARP1 PARylation has been demonstrated by means of various model DNAs mimicking BER intermediates (Ref.⁵, reviewed in Ref.²¹).

Of note, the dependence of the polymerase reaction yield on NAD^+ concentration has a bell-shaped profile. Meanwhile, the inhibition of DNA synthesis at a high concentration of NAD^+ could be attributed to the

dissociation of the ternary complex NCP–PARP1–Pol β owing to total protein PARylation (Supplementary Fig. S10). The PARylation of Pol β as well as its interaction with PAR were reported recently [Ref.⁶² and Supplementary Fig. S10]. The curve bias seen in Fig. 4C is plausibly a consequence of impeded access to the damage site, necessitating a higher PAR level in the presence of Pol β ; therefore, it requires higher concentrations of PARP1 and NAD⁺.

Owing to specific complex formation between Pol β and XRCC1, the competition for the DNA substrate between the DNA polymerase and PARP1 in the presence of the scaffold protein is not so critical; this situation allows to attenuate PARP1's inhibition of Pol β activity^{22,23}. In this case, under PARylation conditions, the same concentration of NAD⁺ was needed for the recovery of Pol β activity in the absence of XRCC1 possibly because the presence of XRCC1 means an additional direct PARylation target (Supplementary Fig. S10)²⁸.

Supposedly, the interaction of PARP2 with the gapped NCP is different from such an interaction of PARP1 and may be mostly promoted by the interaction with the gap (Table 1). Moreover, the interactions of PARP1 and PARP2 with gapped model DNAs have been demonstrated earlier^{17,18,26,41,49}. Given that PARP2 has rather low affinity for blunt ends, it has only a slight steric effect on Pol β functioning during the interaction with an NCP—in comparison with PARP1—and largely competes with the polymerase at the gap site. Besides, PARP2 has lower efficacy of PARylation as compared to PARP1^{41,63}. Consequently, the amount of PAR in this case is not enough for the dissociation of PARP2 from the complex with gap-NCP and for promoting Pol β activity. It is likely that the addition of XRCC1 causes the formation of its specific complex with Pol β ; this complex can efficiently compete with PARP2 for the substrate binding, thereby attenuating PARP2's inhibitory effect on DNA polymerase activity. At the same time, XRCC1 is a good target for PARylation by PARP2, and at a high NAD⁺ concentration, the PARylation of proteins may induce their dissociation from the NCP; this phenomenon may explain the reduction in polymerase activity (Supplementary Fig. S10).

At the last stage of BER, LigIII α in complex with XRCC1 seals the single-strand break to restore the integrity of DNA. In our study, we investigated the influence of PARP1 or PARP2 and PARylation on the ligation and the impact of XRCC1 on the reaction.

It is possible that a strong effect of XRCC1 on the activity of LigIII α was not observed because of the damage localisation in a nucleosome region having greater flexibility^{64,65}. We found that the presence of XRCC1 slightly attenuated the sealing inhibition caused by PARP1. This result is consistent with the published data on the inhibitory effect of XRCC1 on the PARP1 activity⁶⁶. Under the assumption that LigIII α binds to a nicked NCP and partially disrupts it, the inhibition of its activity by PARP1 could be explained by the competition between the proteins upon substrate binding close to blunt ends of the DNA duplex. Aside from the competitive interplay, the interaction of PARP2 with the nicked NCP probably prevents the nucleosome disruption by LigIII α and as a consequence causes a lower reaction yield.

The increase in the sealed-product amount in the presence of NAD⁺ could be ascribed to the following scenario. In this case, not only a PARP molecule but also XRCC1 and probably LigIII α may undergo modification. It has been shown that LigIII α can detect DNA nicks in the presence of either PAR or PARylated PARP1 [Ref.⁶⁷, summarized in Ref.⁶⁸]. Moreover, the LigIII α zinc finger, which—just as the catalytic domain—is important for the detection of damaged DNA, may facilitate recognition of the DNA nick in the presence of negatively charged PAR^{67,69}. Moreover, Caldecott's group has discovered that XRCC1 can be attracted to a damage site through the interaction with PAR, and the catalytic activity of either PARP1 or PARP2 can promote the loading of endogenous XRCC1 onto the damage site, possibly causing the formation of the specific binary XRCC1–LigIII α complex at this site^{70,71}. Hence, a certain PAR level will stimulate the formation of the specific complex of LigIII α at the DNA damage site. With a further increase of the PAR level in the system, LigIII α may be pulled down from the NCP because of the competition between PAR and DNA as binding substrates or a breakdown of the entire complex owing to the formation of a large amount of the negatively charged polymer of ADP-ribose. In this case, a specific interaction and/or activity of PARP2 towards an NCP may provide more accurate adjustments of the LigIII α or XRCC1–LigIII α activity and can stimulate ligation.

Conclusions

Nuclear PARPs trigger and control DNA repair under genotoxic stress and regulate these processes by PARylation. The data obtained in this study as well as literature data indicate functional dependence of various repair enzymes' activities on PARylation and PAR synthesis and can be described by the following hypothetical model of the regulation of the basal BER process in the absence of massive DNA damaging exposure.

DNA damage triggers the activation of a signalling pathway through PARP1. In this process, some regions of compacted chromatin could be converted to a partially de-compacted state. PARylation enables the dissociation of histone and non-histone chromatin proteins and involves specific repair proteins^{72–74}. The main role of PAR at this stage is to loosen chromatin structure and to attract BER proteins such as scaffold protein XRCC1 and possibly some key proteins such as APE1 and others. The interactions of XRCC1, APE1 and other BER proteins with PAR have been documented^{162,66,75}. The interaction of PARP1 and APE1 on an intact or incised AP site has been detected biochemically, and their co-localisation has been confirmed by AFM, meaning that the direct interaction of PARP1 and APE1 may facilitate the search for DNA damage sites^{17–20,76}. The cleavage of an AP site by APE1 leads to additional activation of PARP1 and PARylation resulting finally in the dissociation of PARP1. It makes way for subsequent stimulation of the BER process by the removal of APE1 from its product by Pol β , followed by a dRP-lyase reaction and repair synthesis⁷⁷. The weight of evidence suggests that the functions of PARP1 and PARP2 probably overlap partially after the AP site cleavage and supports a role of PARP2 in the regulation of BER activity. Both PARP1 and PARP2 engage in a specific interaction with the product of AP site cleavage, and both PARPs are activated by gap substrates^{17,41}. Nonetheless, we believe that the contribution of PARP2 to BER becomes more specific starting from this point and begins to increase. The presence of a specific

single-strand break DNA structure as well as PAR synthesised by PARP1 attracts PARP2, which in turn synthesises additional PAR molecules. PAR can regulate the turnover of BER proteins at various stages of the process. PARP1 and PARP2 regulate Pol β activity, whereas PARP2 stimulates LigIII α activity to complete the repair process, indirectly through their interactions with XRCC1 and PAR. The synthesis of PAR that is catalysed by PARP1 and PARP2 during the interaction with damaged DNA helps the Pol β -XRCC1 complex to complete its action, and PARP2 providing PARylation stimulates the activity of LigIII α -XRCC1 towards the NCP. The higher PAR level leads to a breakdown of the specific ligase complex, and repair is thus accomplished. We propose that the PAR synthesised at the initial stages by PARP1, and at the final steps also by PARP2, can act as a regulatory factor for the step-by-step progression of the BER process.

Materials and methods

Materials. Synthetic oligonucleotides, including 5'-FAM-labelled oligonucleotides, were acquired from Biosset (Novosibirsk, Russia). Reagents for electrophoresis and basic components of buffers were purchased from Sigma (USA). γ [32 P]ATP and α [32 P]ATP (with specific activity of 5000 and 3000 Ci/mmol, respectively) were bought from the Laboratory of Biotechnology (Institute of Chemical Biology and Fundamental Medicine, Novosibirsk, Russia), whereas recombinant T4 polynucleotide kinase and *E. coli* uracil-DNA glycosylase from Biosan (Novosibirsk, Russia). Proteinase K was bought from NEB (USA), and ultrapure dNTPs, ddNTPs, NTPs and NAD $^{+}$ from Promega (USA). The synthesis of radioactive NAD $^{+}$ was carried out according to Ref.⁷⁸.

Protein purification. Human LigIII α and XRCC1 were purified according to Refs.^{79,80}, whereas human APE1, rat Pol β and PARG according to Refs.⁸¹⁻⁸³. Human PARP1 and mouse PARP2 were purified as described elsewhere⁸⁴.

Oligonucleotide substrates. Oligodeoxyribonucleotides were 5' [32 P]phosphorylated by T4 polynucleotide kinase as described before⁷⁸. The amplification of 5'-FAM- or 32 P-labelled DNA and subsequent NCP reconstitution were performed according to Ref.⁸⁵. The purity of the sample was estimated by the homogeneity controlled by electrophoretic mobility on a 10% polyacrylamide gel under non-denaturing conditions. The assembly of the nucleosome was considered correct when one band was detected on the electropherogram with electrophoretic mobility corresponding to that of an NCP (Supplementary Fig. S1). On the basis of molecular modelling and biochemical data about the nucleobase orientation of the 601 Widom sequence, two positions of the 603 Widom sequence with different damage orientations were chosen; they were either outward- or midward-oriented lesions^{86,87}.

The following sequences of primers were used for the assembly of a DNA and NCP with a midward or outward orientation of the damage site: 5'-CCCAGTUCGCGCGCCACC and 5'-ACCCCAGGGACTTGAAGTAATAAGG for the substrate with a midward-oriented lesion, and 5'-ACCCCAGGGACTUGAAGTAATAAGG and 5'-GGGTCAAGCGCGGGTGG for the substrate with an outward-oriented lesion (Fig. 1B). At the first stage, specific conditions for AP site generation were found that ensured equivalent UDG efficiency with a midward- or outward-oriented NCP and DNA⁸⁸. In all cases, the AP sites were generated by the UDG activity during direct incubation of a U-containing DNA or U-NCP solution with the enzyme for 30 min at 37 °C at the ratio of 1 activity unit per 0.6 pmol of DNA. The extent of the reaction was controlled by the alkaline hydrolysis with the addition of 0.1 M NaCl for 1 min at 37 °C followed by probe heating for 5 min at 97 °C and subsequent separation by electrophoresis on a 10% polyacrylamide gel under denaturing conditions. The produced AP site-containing substrates were subjected directly to the following reactions. Single-strand break substrates with a 5'-deoxyribose phosphate and a gap were prepared by incubation of 1 μ M (for substrates with a midward-oriented lesion) or 0.1 μ M (for substrates with an outward-oriented lesion) APE1 with 0.1 μ M AP site-containing DNA (AP-DNA) or AP site-containing NCP (AP-NCP) in reaction buffer containing 5 mM MgCl $_2$ for 15 min at 37 °C and then were used for subsequent analyses. Low-salt nucleosome assembly buffer consisting of 10 mM NaCl, 0.2 mM EDTA, 5 mM β -mercaptoethanol, 0.1% of NP-40, 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5 and 0.25 mg/ml BSA served as reaction buffer.

Evaluation of K_d . Values of dissociation constant K_d were determined by two methods. Reaction mixtures (final volume of 10 μ l) for an EMSA containing 50 nM 5' [32 P]labelled DNA or NCP were incubated for 15 min at 37 °C in reaction buffer with 0.01, 0.05, 0.1, 0.5 or 1 μ M PARP1 or -2. To separate free DNA or NCP and nucleic-acid-protein complexes, the samples were then subjected to electrophoresis at 4 °C on 4% native polyacrylamide gels in 1 \times TBE (Tris-borate-EDTA) buffer for 1 h at 100 V. After that, the gels were quantitatively analysed by autoradiography and/or phosphorimaging using a Typhoon imaging system from GE Healthcare Life Sciences, and the data were analysed in OriginPro 7.5 (Microcal Software). Alternatively, K_d values were estimated by fluorescence anisotropy measurements based on the detection of real-time PARPs' activity according to Ref.⁴⁰. Briefly, a reaction mixture containing 0.03 μ M 5'-FAM-labelled native, AP- or gap-DNA or NCP and 1.6–400.0 nM PARP1 or 0.016–2.000 μ M PARP2 in reaction buffer (50 mM NaCl, 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0 and 5 mM DTT) with 5 mM MgCl $_2$ was prepared on ice in a 384-well plate and incubated at room temperature for 10 min. The fluorescent probes were excited at 482 nm (482–16 filter plus dichroic filter LP504), and the fluorescence intensities were detected at 530 nm (530–40 filter). Each measurement consisted of 50 flashes per well, and the resulting values of fluorescence were automatically averaged. The measurement was carried out in kinetic scan mode. The measurements in each well were done 10 times with intervals of 3 min. The average values were used for the final plot, and K_d values were calculated by means of the MARS Data Analysis software (BMG LABTECH).

The measurement of a PARP's activity. Efficacy of PARPs under activation by different substrates was evaluated as the amount of a poly(ADP-ribose) synthesised by PARP1 or PARP2 using [32 P]labelled NAD $^{+}$ as a precursor. The 60 μ l reaction was initiated by the addition of 50 nM PARP1 or 100 nM PARP2 to a solution of 50 nM 5'-FAM-labelled native, AP- or gapped DNA or NCP in reaction buffer with 5 mM MgCl $_2$ and 0–4000 μ M NAD $^{+}$ containing 1 μ M [32 P]labelled NAD $^{+}$. The reaction was carried out at 37 °C for 0, 1, 3, 5, 10 and 20 min and stopped by placing the aliquots of the reaction mixture on paper filters (Whatman-1) soaked with a 5% solution of trichloroacetic acid. The filters were washed four times with 5% trichloroacetic acid, then with 90% ethanol, and air-dried. For quantitation, the filters were subjected to autoradiography on the Typhoon imaging system (GE Healthcare Life Sciences), and the quantity of the radiolabel incorporated into the acid-insoluble fraction was analysed in the Quantity One software (Bio-Rad). The quantitative data were analysed in Microsoft Excel 2010 and presented in histograms as the mean \pm SD.

The kinetic parameters of PARylation. K_M and k_{obs} values of the PARylation catalysed by PARP1 or PARP2 were estimated by fluorescence anisotropy measurements as described previously⁴⁰. Briefly, the reaction was initiated by the addition of an aliquot of a NAD $^{+}$ solution of various concentrations (20–5000 μ M) to the mixture of 0.2 μ M PARP1 or 1 μ M PARP2 with 0.1 μ M DNA or NCP in reaction buffer with 5 mM MgCl $_2$. The obtained values of the anisotropy decrease were normalised and plotted to calculate K_M and k_{obs} in the MARS Data Analysis software (BMG LABTECH).

The influence of PARP1, PARP2 and PARylation on the cleavage activity of APE1. First, the concentration of APE1 for effective AP site cleavage in the context of a DNA or NCP was found. To this end, the reaction (in 10 μ l) was initiated by the addition of 0.001–1.000 μ M APE1 to a solution of 0.1 μ M 5'-FAM-labelled AP-substrate in reaction buffer with 5 mM MgCl $_2$. The reaction was carried out at 37 °C for 0, 5, 10 or 15 min and stopped by the addition of 20 mM methoxyamine with 15 mM EDTA and incubated for 30 min on ice. The mixtures were supplemented with loading buffer consisting of 7 M urea and 50 mM EDTA. The products were separated by electrophoresis on a 10% polyacrylamide gel under denaturing conditions and subjected to autoradiography for quantitation on the Typhoon imaging system (GE Healthcare Life Sciences) and were analysed using Quantity One software (Bio-Rad). APE1 efficacy was evaluated as the amount of an AP site cleavage product relative to all forms of DNA in a lane, expressed as a percentage. To assess APE1 activity towards naked DNA, a DNA duplex containing an AP site at the 13th position from the 5'-labelled end was used in all experiments. To evaluate APE1 efficacy in the presence of a PARP, the concentration of the enzyme was chosen that yielded 40–50% substrate cleavage within 15 min. This concentration was found to be 0.03 μ M APE1 for substrates with an outward-oriented lesion, 1 μ M APE1 for substrates with a midward-oriented lesion and 0.001 μ M APE1 for naked DNA. For further experiments, in accordance with the same experimental scheme, PARP1 or PARP2 concentration was varied from 0.01 to 1.00 μ M. At the last stage, the experiments with each PARP concentration were conducted at 400 μ M NAD $^{+}$. All reaction products were separated by 10% polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis and analysed as described above.

The impact of PARP1, PARP2 and PARylation on the DNA polymerase activity of Pol β . At the first stage, the concentration of Pol β for effective gap-filling in the context of an NCP was found. For this purpose, the reaction (in 10 μ l) was started by the addition of 0.001–1.000 μ M Pol β and 100 μ M dTTP to a 0.1 μ M solution of the gap-substrate in reaction buffer with 5 mM MgCl $_2$. The reaction was allowed to proceed at 37 °C for 1, 3, 5 or 10 min and was quenched by the addition of loading buffer consisting of 7 M urea with 50 mM EDTA. The products were separated by electrophoresis on a 15% polyacrylamide gel under denaturing conditions and subjected to autoradiography for quantitation using the Typhoon imaging system (GE Healthcare Life Sciences) and analysed in the Quantity One software (Bio-Rad). The efficacy of the DNA synthesis was evaluated as the amount of the dTMP incorporation product relative to the initial gap-containing NCP form, expressed as a percentage. To evaluate Pol β efficacy in the presence of a PARP, the interval of 3 min was chosen, then the concentration of the enzyme was adjusted to ensure a linear range of the kinetics for substrates with an outward- or midward-oriented damage; thus, 2.5 and 50 nM, respectively, were chosen as suitable concentrations of Pol β . For further analyses, the kinetic parameters of the dTMP incorporation were estimated in the absence or presence of 1, 5, 10, 25, 50, 100 or 500 nM PARP1 or 20, 50, 100 or 500 nM PARP2. Additionally, the magnitude of dTMP incorporation was estimated in the presence of 1, 10, 100 or 1000 μ M NAD $^{+}$ for each PARP concentration. The effect of XRCC1 on the activity of Pol β was estimated according to the same experimental scheme. The concentration of XRCC1 was selected at the first stage of the experiment to ensure dTMP incorporation at the same level and was found to be 4 and 50 nM for substrates with an outward- or midward-oriented lesion, respectively. All reaction products were separated by 15% polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis and analysed as described above.

The influence of PARP1, PARP2 and PARylation on the LigIII α activity. At the first step, the reactions were carried out at various concentrations of LigIII α —0.01, 0.1, 0.5 or 1 μ M—without or with XRCC1 in a molar ratio of 1:1 to LigIII α to find optimal reaction conditions. Thus, the 0.5 μ M concentration of LigIII α was chosen. Gap-NCP substrates were treated with Pol β and dTTP to obtain a LigIII α substrate as described above. The reaction mixtures (final volume of 10 or 30 μ l) containing 0.02 μ M 5'-[32 P]- or 0.1 μ M 5'-FAM-labelled NCP substrate and 1 mM ATP in reaction buffer with 10 mM MgCl $_2$ and 100 mM NaCl were incubated for 30 min at 37 °C with the mixtures of LigIII α and 100 μ M NAD $^{+}$; LigIII α and 0.01, 0.1 or 1 μ M PARP1 or PARP2; or LigIII α , 100 μ M NAD $^{+}$ and 0.01, 0.1 or 1 μ M PARP1 or PARP2 in the absence or presence of XRCC1. All probes were assayed as described above. In addition, 5'-FAM-labelled NCP-probes were assayed by Laemmli SDS-PAGE in

a 12% gel at the 40:1 ratio of acrylamide to bis-acrylamide, followed by Coomassie Brilliant Blue R-250 staining. When indicated, before the electrophoresis, aliquots of the reaction mixture (10 μ l) were treated with 0.001 U of Proteinase K or 0.5 μ M PARP for additional 30 min at 37 °C.

All data generated or analysed during this study are included in this published article.

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Author contributions

K.M., B.E., K.T. and U.A. conducted the experiments. K.M., B.E., V.I., and K.S. purified all the proteins, L.O. contributed to the conception of the work and interpretation of data and to have approved the submitted and revised version of the manuscript. All authors contributed to the analysis and interpretation of the data and to the review of the manuscript.

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Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

Additional information

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