

Identifyn Standards for Optical Microscopy Methods™Identifyn® Primary Antibody**Rabbit anti-Human Chk1 Polyclonal***Cat ID# - PA-RP 000011*Identifyn® Secondary Antibody**Identifyn® SRM Alexa Fluor™ 647 Affinity Purified Goat Anti-Rabbit, IgG (H + L)***Cat ID# - SA 000057*

CHK1 (Checkpoint Kinase 1) is a critical serine/threonine kinase involved in the cellular response to DNA damage, particularly in checkpoint activation and cell cycle regulation. It significantly prevents cells from progressing through the cell cycle when DNA damage remains unrepaired, including single-strand breaks (SSBs). Here's an overview of CHK1's role in single-strand break repair and its broader role in maintaining genomic stability.

Overview of CHK1

Chk1 is a key downstream effector of the ATR (Ataxia Telangiectasia and Rad3-related) pathway, which is activated in response to replication stress and single-strand breaks. Upon activation by ATR, Chk1 coordinates the cellular response by signaling for cell cycle arrest, stabilizing replication forks, and promoting DNA repair.

Role of Chk1 in Response to Single-Strand Breaks

Chk1's role in single-strand break repair involves several vital functions, which contribute to the broader DNA damage response:

Cell Cycle Checkpoint Activation: When ATR is activated in response to single-strand breaks or replication stress, it phosphorylates Chk1. This phosphorylation triggers checkpoint activation, leading to cell cycle arrest or delay. This pause in the cell cycle allows DNA repair processes to fix the damage before the cell replicates or divides.

Regulation of Replication Fork Progression: Chk1 plays a crucial role in stabilizing and regulating replication forks, preventing them from collapsing into double-strand breaks. This is especially important when single-strand breaks or other forms of damage occur during DNA replication.

Coordination of DNA Repair: Chk1 provides a window for DNA repair pathways to operate by activating cell cycle checkpoints. This coordination ensures that repair proteins involved in base excision repair (BER) and other pathways have sufficient time to correct single-strand breaks and prevent further genomic instability.

Chk1's Role in Broader DNA Damage Response

Beyond its direct role in responding to single-strand breaks, Chk1 contributes to the overall DNA damage response:

Cross-Talk with Other Pathways: Chk1's activation can lead to interactions with other signaling pathways, including p53 and other cell cycle regulators. This cross-talk helps coordinate a broader response to DNA damage, ensuring genomic stability.

Promotion of Genomic Stability: Chk1 helps maintain genomic stability by preventing cells with unrepaired DNA from progressing through the cell cycle. This function is crucial in reducing the risk of mutations and chromosomal aberrations.

Chk1 plays a critical role in the cellular response to single-strand breaks by activating cell cycle checkpoints, stabilizing replication forks, and coordinating DNA repair processes. Its

role as a downstream effector of the ATR pathway makes it essential for preventing cells with damaged DNA from progressing, thereby maintaining genomic stability.

Methods

HeLa cells were grown in a μ -Slide 8 Well High Glass Bottom [Ibidi chamber](#). DNA damage was induced via treatment with 2 μ M Etoposide-spiked complete growth media for 24 hours,

followed by fixation in -20 °C methanol and blocking with [Thermo Fisher Fish Serum Blocker cat#37527X3](#). The primary antibody, Rabbit anti-Human Chk1 Polyclonal was incubated for 1 hour at room temperature at a dilution of 1:100. Cells were washed 3X in Identifyn®'s proprietary Wash Buffer, and Identifyn®'s 647 secondary antibody was incubated at room temperature for 1 hour at a dilution of 1:200. Cells were washed 5 times in Identifyn®'s proprietary Wash Buffer followed by the addition of Identifyn®'s proprietary STORM Buffer to the sample chamber enabling image acquisition.

Microscope

Bruker Vutara VXL Biplane Single Molecule Microscope, using an Olympus 60x/1.30 Silicon Oil objective, was used with the following parameters:

Calibration -

Calibration follows Identifyn®'s Calibration Standard Operating Procedure, which can be found here.

<https://identifyn.com/storm-calibration>

Image Acquisition -

SRX Software - Under the 'Single Molecule Localization' tab, '**Record**' is selected and contains the following workflow tabs and parameters.

Configuration Tab - Capture Configuration

Number of Probes: 1

Number of Simultaneous Probes: 1

Number of Reference Probes: 1

Camera: Both Cameras

Color Channel: Both Channels

Probe Capture Mode: Interleaved

Z -Stack Capture Mode: Interleaved

Multiple Location Capture: Not selected

Post Record Reference: Not Selected

Fluidics: Not Selected

Autofocus Drift Correction: On

Microscope Configuration

Biplane Module: 635 nm Dichroic

Objective: Silicon Selected

Stage Insert: Rectangular Selected

Course Focus Position: 8-Well Chamber Selected

Dichroic: SuperRes

PSF: (Red, Orange)

Heater: Current: 26

Camera Configuration

Recording Vertical Field of View: 100%

Widefield Camera Exposure Time: 100 ms

Super Resolution Camera Exposure Time: 20 ms

Widefield Camera Binning: 1

Per-Probe Exposure Time: Selected

Probe Configuration

Predefined Probe: First probe: 640 nm (635 nm Dichroic); First reference probe: 640 nm (635 nm Dichroic)

Photoactivation/Imaging Laser: 0% Selected

Exposure Time: 20 ms Selected

Experiment Configuration

Record Workflow: Selected Options

View Mode: Widefield 200 µm

Capture Mode: Live

Stage and Piezo Selection

Examination of the Sample

Cell(s) or Cellular Structure Localization - The red-bordered box identifies the area of the SuperRes view and defines a suitable cell(s) or cellular structure. The cell(s) or structures are optimally focused.

Piezo Current: 183.2 µm

Probe 1 Laser control 640 nm (635 nm Dichroic)

Widefield 640 nm: 0.1X Neutral Density Filter: Selected, @ 0.2% Laser Input

Reference Probe 1 Laser control 640 nm (635 nm Dichroic): Not Selected

Advanced Tools Option

Widefield camera Exposure Time: 100 ms

Default values are maintained unless otherwise noted.

Widefield Laser: "Widefield 640 nm" was deselected, and "calibrate" under Autofocus was selected.

Autofocus - Calibration Values

Current Position: -0.979

Current Intensity: 4.5

Calibration Value: -5070 nm/unit

Autofocus Mode: Pre-Capture

View Mode

SuperRes: 50 µm is selected

Capture Mode

Live

Stage and Piezo Selection

Cell(s) or Cellular Structure Localization: Positioning of the target Cell or Subsection of the Target Cell is optimized and focused.

Piezo Record: Begin: 182.2; End: 183.2

Probe 1 Laser control 640 nm (635 nm Dichroic)

SuperRes 640nm: 0.1X Neutral Density Filter: Selected, @ 0.02% Laser Input

Reference Probe 1 Laser control 640 nm (635 nm Dichroic)

Not Selected

Advanced Tools

Widefield Camera Exposure Time: 20 ms

Default values are maintained unless otherwise noted.

Record Workflow - Record Tab: Capture Parameters

Frames: Probe 1: 200

Z Positions: 5

Cycles: 30

Time Points: 1

Pause Between Cycles: Not Selected

Automatic Photoactivation Laser Control: Not Selected

Probe 1 Laser control 640 nm (635 nm Dichroic)

Laser Power: 40

Expert Configuration Options - The Localization Tab

Beyond the values shown, all other parameters were set to default values.

Localization

Cutout Width: 16 px

Max Frame Accumulation: 1 frame

Max Accumulation Offset: 1 px

Fiducial at Max Accumulation: Not selected

Max Particles Per Frame: No Max

Background SLPE Removal: Not Selected

Cutout/Background Removal: Not Selected

Preview Cutout Positions: Selected

Record Workflow - Localization Tab**Data Collection**

The folder is created automatically with the localization file for this image acquisition.

Recording Summary

All parameters were carried over from previous tabs and are kept except:

Probe1: BG threshold: 25

Region of Interest -

Not selected

Display -

Was deployed to inspect if the BG threshold applied chooses localizations in an expected manner

Record Workflow - View Tab**Region of Interest**

Default values

Visualization Parameters

Point Splatting

Sizing Mode: Constant

Particle size: 20 nm

Color by: Depth

Color Table: Single

Opacity Mode: Depth; Opacity 1: 0.50

Front-to-back Attenuation: Not Selected

Post Acquisition analysis - View Tab**Drift Correction** - Computed with the following parameters:

Method: Particle (direct)

Time Intervals: 8 Intervals

Pixel Size: 50 nm

Smoothing: 8.00

Advanced Particle Filters - Applied to the drift-corrected data with the following parameters

Radial precision: 30

Axial precision: 65

The other parameters were not applied.

Statistical Analysis - Computed to clean low background signals.

Statistics Dialog - Cluster Analysis

Clustering Algorithm: DBSCAN

Parameters

Maximum Particle Distance: 0.1 μm

Maximum Particle Count to Form Cluster: 10

Compute Hulls: Not Selected

Compute Density Isosurfaces: Not Selected

Edit Settings: All Probes

Compute: Selected

Following Cluster Analysis Computation, under the Results Tab, ID Unassigned:
Deselected

Image by P. Raut

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