

DNA Damage Reversal

Gillespie, ME., Gopinathrao, G., Joshi-Tope, G., Kadambat Nair, S., Orlic-Milacic, M., Pegg, AE.

European Bioinformatics Institute, New York University Langone Medical Center, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, Oregon Health and Science University.

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This is just an excerpt of a full-length report for this pathway. To access the complete report, please download it at the [Reactome Textbook](#).

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Introduction

Reactome is open-source, open access, manually curated and peer-reviewed pathway database. Pathway annotations are authored by expert biologists, in collaboration with Reactome editorial staff and cross-referenced to many bioinformatics databases. A system of evidence tracking ensures that all assertions are backed up by the primary literature. Reactome is used by clinicians, geneticists, genomics researchers, and molecular biologists to interpret the results of high-throughput experimental studies, by bioinformaticians seeking to develop novel algorithms for mining knowledge from genomic studies, and by systems biologists building predictive models of normal and disease variant pathways.

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Literature references

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Reactome database release: 88

This document contains 4 pathways ([see Table of Contents](#))

DNA Damage Reversal [↗](#)

Stable identifier: R-HSA-73942

Compartments: nucleoplasm

DNA damage can be directly reversed by dealkylation (Mitra and Kaina 1993). Three enzymes play a major role in reparative DNA dealkylation: MGMT, ALKBH2 and ALKBH3. MGMT dealkylates O-6-methylguanine in a suicidal reaction that inactivates the enzyme (Daniels et al. 2000, Rasimas et al. 2004, Duguid et al. 2005, Tubbs et al. 2007), while ALKBH2 and ALKBH3 dealkylate 1-methyladenine, 3-methyladenine, 3-methylcytosine and 1-ethyladenine (Duncan et al. 2002, Dango et al. 2011).

Literature references

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- Xiong, LJ., Park, K., Mosammaparast, N., Dango, S., Shi, Y., Gygi, S. et al. (2011). DNA unwinding by ASCC3 helicase is coupled to ALKBH3-dependent DNA alkylation repair and cancer cell proliferation. *Mol. Cell*, 44, 373-84. [↗](#)

Editions

2004-02-04	Edited, Reviewed	Joshi-Tope, G.
2004-02-04	Authored	Pegg, AE.
2014-12-16	Edited, Revised	Orlic-Milacic, M.
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MGMT-mediated DNA damage reversal [↗](#)

Location: [DNA Damage Reversal](#)

Stable identifier: R-HSA-5657655

Compartments: nucleoplasm

Reactive cellular catabolites can cause DNA damage by 6-O-methylation of guanine. 6-O-methylguanine can pair ambiguously with both C and T, and cause transition mutations. Active reversal of such damage can be facilitated by MGMT, a protein that has 6-O-methylguanine-DNA methyltransferase activity (Mitra and Kaina 1993).

Literature references

Mitra, S., Kaina, B. (1993). Regulation of repair of alkylation damage in mammalian genomes. *Prog Nucleic Acid Res Mol Biol*, 44, 109-42. [↗](#)

Editions

2004-02-04	Edited, Reviewed	Joshi-Tope, G.
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Reversal of alkylation damage by DNA dioxygenases ↗

Location: [DNA Damage Reversal](#)

Stable identifier: R-HSA-73943

Compartments: nucleoplasm

DNA in cells is susceptible to different types of cytotoxic and mutagenic damage caused by alkylating agents. These genotoxic chemicals generate major lesions like 1-methyladenine, 3-methyladenine, 3-methylcytosine and O6-methylguanine in DNA. Cells have built in repair mechanisms against such toxic molecules. For example, 3-methyladenine-DNA glycosylases excise some methylated bases while MGMT/hAGT protein transfers alkyl groups from others lesions onto cysteine residues. E.coli AlkB protein has a unique function wherein 1-methyladenine and 3-methylcytosine are demethylated by a combination of oxidative decarboxylation and hydroxylation activities. AlkB and its human orthologs, ALKBH2 (ABH2) and ALKBH3 (ABH3) belong to alpha-ketoglutarate deoxygenase family of enzymes that oxidize chemically inert compounds in the presence of alpha-ketoglutarate, oxygen and ferrous ions. As a byproduct of these chemical reactions, formaldehyde is released in the case of methylated lesions and acetaldehyde in the case 1-ethyladenine in DNA. CO₂ and succinate are also released in an intermediate step not shown in the following illustration. Unlike other mechanisms which involve some kind of nuclease activities, this type of repair mechanism leaves the repaired bases intact by just removing the reactive alkyl groups that get bound to the bases thereby effecting accurate restoration of damaged DNA sequences (Trewick et al. 2002, Duncan et al. 2002, Sedgwick 2004).

Literature references

Lindahl, T., Henshaw, TF., Hausinger, RP., Sedgwick, B., Trewick, SC. (2002). Oxidative demethylation by Escherichia coli AlkB directly reverts DNA base damage. *Nature*, 419, 174-8. ↗

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Reversible DNA damage induced by alkylating chemotherapeutic drugs [↗](#)

Location: [DNA Damage Reversal](#)

Stable identifier: R-HSA-9729902

This pathway describes how chemotherapeutic drugs commonly used in cancer treatment produce alkylating DNA damage that is repaired through the DNA damage reversal pathway. For review, please refer to Fu et al. 2012.

Literature references

Fu, D., Samson, L.D., Calvo, J.A. (2012). Balancing repair and tolerance of DNA damage caused by alkylating agents. *Nat. Rev. Cancer*, 12, 104-20. [↗](#)

Editions

2021-05-28	Authored	Orlic-Milacic, M.
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Table of Contents

Introduction	1
❖ DNA Damage Reversal	2
❖ MGMT-mediated DNA damage reversal	3
❖ Reversal of alkylation damage by DNA dioxygenases	4
❖ Reversible DNA damage induced by alkylating chemotherapeutic drugs	5
Table of Contents	6