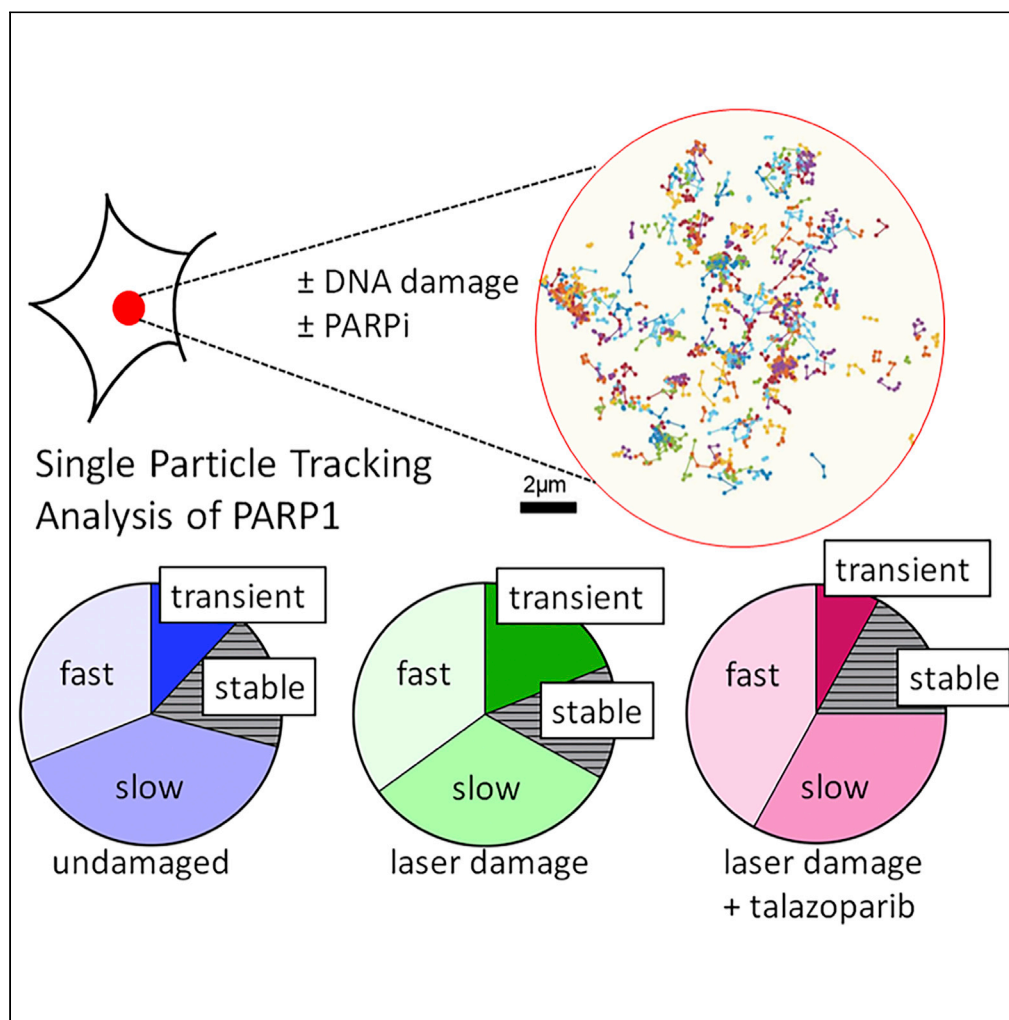


Article

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karolin.luger@colorado.edu

Highlights

Single-molecule microscopy in live cells was used to monitor PARP1/2

Cells were treated with DNA-damaging agents and/or inhibitors of PARP1/2

Most PARP1/2 diffuse freely regardless of DNA damage or presence of inhibitors

Treatment with inhibitors leads to only subtle changes in PARP1/2 mobility

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Article

Dynamics of endogenous PARP1 and PARP2 during DNA damage revealed by live-cell single-molecule imaging

Jyothi Mahadevan,¹ Asmita Jha,² Johannes Rudolph,¹ Samuel Bowerman,^{1,3} Domenic Narducci,² Anders S. Hansen,² and Karolin Luger^{1,3,4,*}

SUMMARY

PARP1 contributes to genome architecture and DNA damage repair through its dynamic association with chromatin. PARP1 and PARP2 (PARP1/2) recognize damaged DNA and recruit the DNA repair machinery. Using single-molecule microscopy in live cells, we monitored the movement of PARP1/2 on undamaged and damaged chromatin. We identify two classes of freely diffusing PARP1/2 and two classes of bound PARP1/2. The majority (>60%) of PARP1/2 diffuse freely in both undamaged and damaged nuclei and in the presence of inhibitors of PARP1/2 used for cancer therapy (PARPi). Laser-induced DNA damage results in a small fraction of slowly diffusing PARP1 and PARP2 to become transiently bound. Treatment of cells with PARPi in the presence of DNA damage causes subtle changes in the dynamics of bound PARP1/2, but not the high levels of PARP1/2 trapping seen previously. Our results imply that next-generation PARPi could specifically target the small fraction of DNA-bound PARP1/2.

INTRODUCTION

Repair of damaged DNA begins with the recognition of the lesion by protein factors as exemplified by the rapid detection of single- and double-stranded DNA breaks (SSBs and DSBs) by the nuclear enzymes PARP1 and PARP2.^{1–3} Upon binding to damaged DNA, PARP1 and PARP2 (PARP1/2) utilize NAD⁺ to add poly ADP-ribose (PAR) chains onto themselves, histones, and other protein components of the DNA repair pathway.^{4–6} These PAR chains contribute to the decompaction of chromatin and recruitment of downstream factors to coordinate the DNA damage response (DDR).^{7,8} PARP1 catalyzes 85%–95% of total cellular PARylation observed in response to DNA breaks.⁹ PARP2, which is partially redundant with PARP1 in DDR, was identified because of residual PAR activity in PARP1^{−/−} cells.^{9–12} PARP1 arrives first at DNA breaks, followed by PARP2, whose recruitment is in part mediated by PARP1-dependent PARylation.^{3,13,14} In addition to its role in DNA repair, highly abundant PARP1 also regulates chromatin architecture and transcription.^{15–17} Un-PARylated PARP1 binds chromatin with high affinity and compacts it into higher order structures to block transcription *in vitro*.^{15,17,18} In addition, genomic studies have identified PARP1 at promoters of actively transcribed genes.^{19,20}

The enzymatic activity of PARP1/2 is inhibited by a class of pharmacological agents known as PARP inhibitors (PARPi), which are NAD⁺ analogs that bind the catalytic site of PARPs to block cellular PARylation, which causes accumulation of SSBs.^{21,22} When left unrepaired in cycling cells, these SSBs are converted to DSBs that undergo homologous recombination repair (HRR) in normal cells by pathways that include the BRCA1/2 proteins. In addition, treatment with PARPi leads to PARP trapping (see below), fork stalling and reversal,²³ unligated Okazaki fragment formation,²⁴ and post-replicative ssDNA gaps.²⁵ In tumor cells lacking functional HRR mechanisms (i.e. BRCA^{−/−}), treatment with PARPi leads to replication stress and cell death owing to widespread genomic instability.^{26,27} This mechanism of synthetic lethality between PARPi and HRR proteins led to the recognition of PARP1/2 as key targets for cancer drugs.²⁸ Four PARPi (talazoparib, olaparib, niraparib, and rucaparib) are now approved for treatment of breast, ovarian, and prostate cancers with HRR deficiencies.²⁹ These and other PARPi are also being investigated for their use in combination with radiotherapy, platinum salts, and other cytotoxic chemotherapeutic agents like temozolomide.³⁰

¹Department of Biochemistry, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO 80309, USA

²Department of Biological Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA

³Howard Hughes Medical Institute, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO 80309, USA

⁴Lead contact

*Correspondence:

karolin.luger@colorado.edu

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Treatment of cells with PARPi in the presence of a DNA-damaging agent leads to a phenomenon known as “PARP trapping”, the apparent tight association of PARP1 with chromatin. PARP trapping was first described as a 10-fold increased association of DNA with PARP1 as detected by chromatin immunoprecipitation and qPCR.³¹ The increased (>10-fold) association of PARP1 with DNA was further demonstrated by multiple laboratories using chromatin isolated from cells treated with PARPi and included the observation that the efficiency of PARP trapping varied based on which PARPi was being used.^{32–35} Recently, PARP trapping was shown to involve ~50% of all PARP1 using quantitative Western blotting after treatment with KU0058948 (an olaparib analog) and methyl methanesulfonate (MMS).³⁶ PARP trapping (up to 80%) has also been observed for PARP2.^{37,38} These studies clearly suggest that PARPi mediate a **physical stalling** of PARP1/2 on damaged DNA.

Importantly, PARP trapping has been implicated in mediating the cytotoxicity of PARPi when used in combination with alkylating agents.^{32,34,37,39} While it is commonly reported that various PARPi differ only marginally with respect to catalytic inhibition (IC₅₀ in single digit nanomolar range), their true inhibitory values and cytotoxic potentials are vastly different from each other and correlate much better with their ability to trap PARP1.^{40,41} Talazoparib, the most potent PARP trapper, has the highest cytotoxic potential.^{22,33–35} Importantly, PARP trapping requires PARP1, but not PARP2, since only PARP1^{-/-} cells have reduced sensitivity toward certain clinical PARPi stemming from loss of PARP trapping.^{11,32,42}

There has been a lot of interest in elucidating the molecular mechanism of PARP trapping. *In vitro* binding assays show that PARPi do not drastically perturb the rate of release of PARP1 from DNA.^{34,43,44} While PARP1 stabilization at DNA breaks may be regulated via diverse allosteric interactions between PARPi, PARP1, and DNA substrates, these do not correlate with trapping efficiency or *in vivo* efficacy.^{34,45} The notion that PARPi physically entrap PARP1 at DNA lesions in cells has been challenged by a recent finding that PARP1 undergoes rapid turnover at DNA lesions and that PARPi do not undermine this process.⁴²

A better understanding of the kinetic behavior of endogenous PARP1/2 in live cells will provide insight into the role of PARP trapping in governing the efficacy of PARPi, particularly in light of the many other roles ascribed to PARP1/2. Although the chromatin-bound and dynamic states of PARP1 have been studied using fluorescence recovery after photobleaching (FRAP), fluorescence correlation spectroscopy, and fluorescence loss in photobleaching in live cells transfected with fluorescently tagged expression constructs,^{2,46} these ensemble approaches obscure multi-state dynamic behavior. Furthermore, overexpression can potentially change the kinetic behavior of proteins.^{47,48} Here, we set out to understand how endogenous PARP1/2 navigate the undamaged nuclear environment, move to and at DNA lesions, and then stall in the presence of PARPi. Toward this goal, we used CRISPR/Cas9-mediated genome editing to fluorescently tag endogenous PARP1/2 molecules for direct visualization using ensemble and single-molecule live cell microscopy. We find that PARP1/2 exist in three distinct dynamic states (fast diffusing, slow diffusing, and chromatin bound) in both undamaged and damaged cells. We further categorized the chromatin-bound population into transiently and stably bound PARP molecules. Upon induction of laser-induced DNA damage, only the transiently bound PARP1/2 molecules underwent stabilization whereas most molecules continued to diffuse freely. Treatment with an efficient PARP trapper, talazoparib, increased the number and retention time of stably bound PARP1 molecules at DNA lesions, but this effect did not extend to olaparib, a weaker PARP trapper. As such, our results provide key insights for the development of next-generation PARPi.

RESULTS

Live-cell single-molecule microscopy reveals fraction of stably bound PARP1 and PARP2 in undamaged cells

To study the dynamics of endogenous PARP1 and PARP2 molecules in live human osteosarcoma U2OS cells, we used CRISPR/Cas9-mediated genome editing to introduce sequences encoding 3X-Flag-HaloTag into the N-termini of all alleles of endogenous *parp1* or *parp2* genes. This allowed the expression of N-terminal 3X-Flag-HaloTag containing fusion proteins (Figure S1A). Accurate genome targeting was confirmed by PCR using primers flanking the two homology arms and by Sanger sequencing (Figures S1A and S1B). Robust expression of Flag-Halo-PARP1 and Flag-Halo-PARP2 was demonstrated by immunoblots (Figure S1C) and these tagged proteins were covalently modified and fluorescently labeled upon incubation with the cell-permeable HaloTag ligand Janelia Fluor 646 (JF646) (Figures 1Ai and S1D).^{49,50} We also

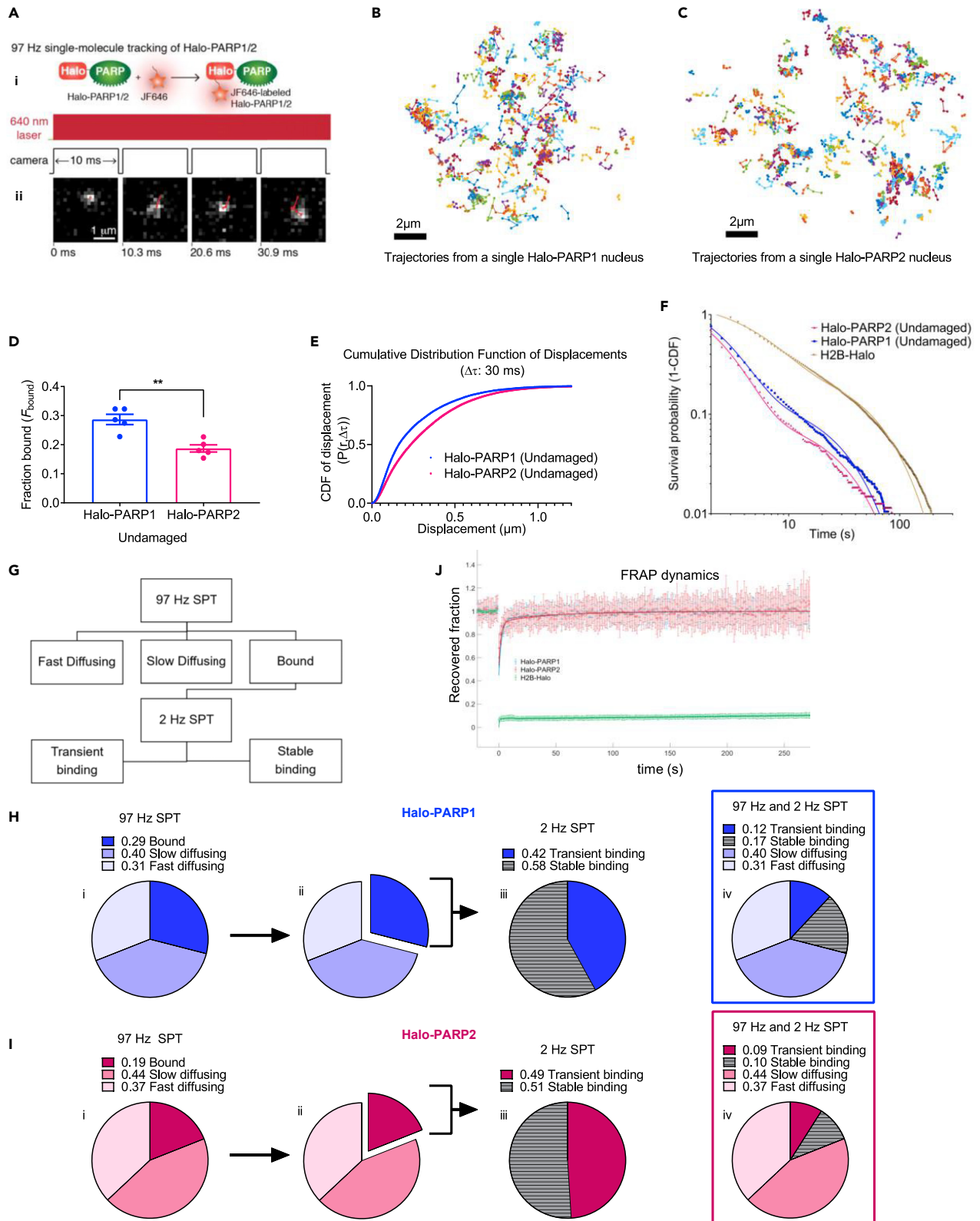


Figure 1. Live-cell single-molecule microscopy reveals fraction of stably bound PARP1 and PARP2 in undamaged cells

(A) (i) Schematic describing the covalent binding of JF646 dye to the HaloTag. (ii) Sample cropped frames from a representative 97 Hz SPT movie depicting the trajectory of a single PARP1 molecule. The 640 nm excitation laser was used continuously for imaging while the camera exposure time was 10.3 ms. (B and C) Single-particle trajectories (length of >2) over 30 s for Halo-PARP1 (in B) or Halo-PARP2 (in C) in a single representative nucleus. (D) Fraction bound (F_{bound}) of Halo-PARP1 and Halo-PARP2 in undamaged cells inferred from Spot-On's three-state model fitting to 97 Hz SPT data. Bar graphs show the mean $F_{\text{bound}} \pm \text{SEM}$ obtained from $\geq 42,000$ trajectories (>3 detections) from ≥ 52 cells from ≥ 5 independent replicates (represented by dots), each of which were fitted separately. Statistical difference between the two groups was determined using unpaired t-test. (E) Cumulative distribution function (CDF) of displacements for Halo-PARP1 and Halo-PARP2 (representative $\Delta\tau = 30$ ms) in undamaged cells. Individual curves depict data merged from $\geq 42,000$ trajectories (>3 detections) from ≥ 52 cells from ≥ 5 independent replicates. (F) A log-log plot showing the uncorrected survival probability (1-CDF) of individual Halo-PARP1 and Halo-PARP2 molecules and their respective two-phase exponential model fits (solid curves) to 2 Hz SPT data in undamaged cells. Each curve represents data merged from ≥ 870 trajectories from ≥ 13 cells from ≥ 3 independent replicates. Data acquired for H2B-Halo (11,737 trajectories from ≥ 40 cells from 10 independent replicates) was used for photobleaching correction and thereby deriving values for $\tau_{\text{transient}}$ and τ_{stable} (See Table S3). (G) Scheme showing 97 Hz and 2 Hz SPT workflow. Three-state model fits to 97 Hz SPT data using Spot-On was used to derive fractions and diffusion coefficients of fast diffusing ($F_{\text{fast}}, D_{\text{fast}}$), slow diffusing ($F_{\text{slow}}, D_{\text{slow}}$), and bound PARP ($F_{\text{bound}}, D_{\text{bound}}$) molecules. Further, 2 Hz SPT data were fit using a two-phase exponential model to derive fractions and duration of transient (Fraction transient, $\tau_{\text{transient}}$) and stable (Fraction stable, τ_{stable}) PARP binding events. (H and I) Pie chart illustrations summarizing the derivation of overall fractions of Halo-PARP1 (in H) and Halo-PARP2 (in I) engaging in transient and stable binding, slow diffusion, and fast diffusion from 97 to 2 Hz SPT experiments. The bound, slow, and fast-diffusing fractions (in i) were determined using Spot-On's three-state model fitting to 97 Hz SPT data. The bound fraction (in ii) in Halo-PARP1 and Halo-PARP2 cells was analyzed by 2 Hz SPT and fit to a two-phase exponential model. Data acquired for H2B-Halo were used for photobleaching correction, and a correction factor (see STAR Methods) was applied to obtain the true fraction of transiently and stably binding Halo-PARP molecules (in iii). These data were compiled together to obtain the overall fractions of endogenous Halo-PARP1 and Halo-PARP2 molecules (in iv). (J) Normalized and photobleaching corrected recovery curves from FRAP experiments performed on Halo-PARP1 (blue circles) and Halo-PARP2 (red circles). H2B-Halo (green circles) was used for photobleaching correction. A two-phase exponential model (solid line) was fit to the FRAP data. Error bars represent SD from 11 to 18 cells from ≥ 3 independent replicates.

demonstrated that our modified cell lines produced PAR in response to DNA damage induced by hydrogen peroxide, and that PARP1/2-activity in these cell lines could be blocked by PARPi (Figure S1E).

We first validated our genome-edited cell lines by performing ensemble live-cell laser microirradiation^{3,51} on Halo-PARP1- and Halo-PARP2-expressing U2OS cells and analyzed our data using the method of quantitation of fluorescence accumulation after DNA damage (Q-FADD).^{14,52,53} To visualize the fluorescently tagged proteins, we used a high nanomolar concentration of the HaloTag ligand, JF646. We found that endogenous Halo-PARP1 accumulates significantly faster than endogenous Halo-PARP2 at laser-induced DNA lesions, as measured by a higher effective diffusion coefficient (D_{eff}) (Figure S1F, Table S1). This result is consistent with our previously published work using cells overexpressing GFP-PARP1 and GFP-PARP2,¹⁴ demonstrating similar recruitment kinetics of Halo- and GFP-tagged proteins (Figures S1F and S1G).

We used our genome-edited Halo-PARP1/2 cell lines to monitor the intranuclear dynamics of individual endogenous PARP1 and PARP2 molecules in the undamaged condition. We labeled genome-edited cells with a low nanomolar concentration of JF646 and visualized individual molecules of Halo-PARP1/2, as described for other Halo-tagged proteins.^{47,48,50,54,55} Using single-particle tracking at a high frame rate (97 Hz SPT) with highly inclined and laminated optical sheet (HILO) illumination,⁵⁶ we could track individual PARP1/2 molecules inside the nucleus over time (Figures 1Aii, 1B, and 1C, Videos S1 and S2). While some particles were relatively immobile and therefore presumably chromatin-bound, others displayed rapid diffusion.

To understand what fraction of PARP1/2 were bound to chromatin vs. freely diffusing, we plotted the displacement distributions of Halo-PARP1/2 and analyzed the data with "Spot-On".⁵⁷ Since a two-state model comprising bound and free fractions resulted in poor fits, especially at longer time delays $\Delta\tau$ (Figures S1H and S1I), we instead used a three-state kinetic model consisting of bound, slow-diffusing, and fast-diffusing fractions, which resulted in better fits. This suggests that in undamaged cells, endogenous PARP1/2 molecules exist in at least three distinct states: a chromatin-bound state, a slow-diffusing state, and a fast-diffusing state. The latter is presumably responsible for scanning the genome for potential DNA insults. While the diffusion coefficients (for both the fast- and slow-diffusing fractions) are very similar between PARP1 and PARP2, a significantly higher fraction of PARP1 (0.29) than of PARP2 (0.19) exists in the chromatin-bound state (F_{bound}) (Figures 1D and 1E and Table S2). The remainder of the PARP population is distributed between the slow-diffusing fraction (F_{slow} , PARP1 = 0.4; PARP2 = 0.44) or the fast-diffusing fraction (F_{fast} , PARP1 = 0.31, PARP2 = 0.37) (Table S2).

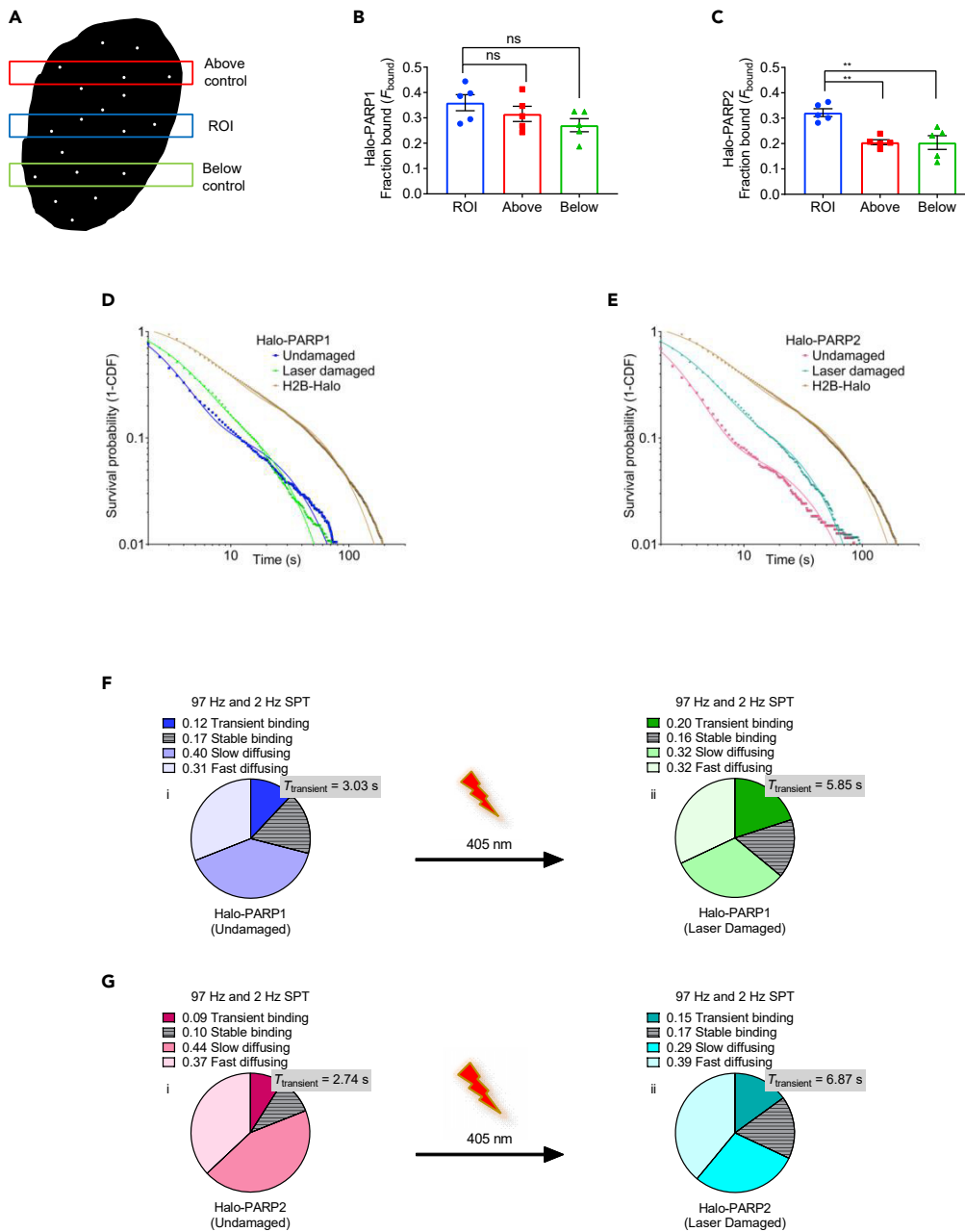


Figure 2. The majority of PARP1 and PARP2 molecules diffuse freely at laser-induced DNA lesions

(A) Cartoon depicting single molecules within a nucleus and the predetermined region of interest ROI (blue), subjected to laser microirradiation, and similar-sized controls above (red) and below the ROI (green). (B and C) Fraction bound (F_{bound}) of Halo-PARP1 (in B) and Halo-PARP2 (in C) in the ROI, above and below control regions in laser-damaged cells. F_{bound} was inferred from Spot-On's three-state model fitting to 97 Hz SPT data. Bar graphs show the mean $F_{\text{bound}} \pm \text{SEM}$ from $\geq 64,000$ trajectories (>3 detections) from ≥ 64 cells from 5 independent replicates (represented by points, squares, or triangles), each of which were fitted separately. Statistical differences between groups were determined using ordinary one-way ANOVA and Bonferroni's multiple comparison tests. (D and E) Log-log plots showing the uncorrected survival probability (1-CDF) of individual Halo-PARP1 (in D) and Halo-PARP2 (in E) molecules and their respective two-phase exponential model fits (solid curves) to 2 Hz SPT data in undamaged and laser-damaged cells. Each curve represents data merged from ≥ 870 trajectories from 13 to 30 cells from ≥ 3 independent replicates. Data acquired for H2B-Halo (11,737 trajectories from ≥ 40 cells from 10 independent replicates) were used for photobleaching correction and thereby deriving values for $\tau_{\text{transient}}$ and τ_{stable} (See Table S3).

Figure 2. Continued

(F and G) Pie chart illustrations summarizing the $\tau_{\text{transient}}$ and overall fractions of Halo-PARP1 (in F) and Halo-PARP2 (in G) in undamaged (in i) and laser-damaged cells (in ii). Each pie chart represents data compiled from 97 to 2 Hz SPT experiments. Figures 1H iv and 1I iv were reused in 2F and 2G, respectively, for reference.

Rapid photobleaching limits our ability to study stable chromatin-binding events that occur at time scales longer than the 30 s length of our 97 Hz movies. We therefore adopted a different imaging scheme (2 Hz SPT) to specifically study the chromatin-bound fractions of Halo-PARP1/2 using lower laser power and frame rate (2 Hz) and a longer exposure time of 500 ms over 5 min.^{47,58,59} In this imaging mode, rapidly diffusing particles are blurred whereas bound molecules can be observed distinctly,⁶⁰ thereby allowing the tracking of both stable and transient PARP-binding events (Videos S3 and S4), as demonstrated for other nuclear proteins.^{47,58,59} We studied the dissociation of Halo-PARP1/2 molecules from chromatin using 2 Hz SPT by plotting their survival probabilities. A survival curve of H2B-Halo, a histone protein known to stably associate with chromatin for multiple hours, was used as a control for photobleaching.^{47,59} We fitted survival curves with a two-phase exponential decay model that accounts for binding events of PARP molecules that are either transiently or stably bound (Figures 1F and S1I). We found that a subfraction of 0.58 (out of 0.29 bound) PARP1 and 0.51 (out of 0.19 bound) PARP2 molecules participate in stable binding events while the remainder engages in transient binding events (Table S3).

Next, we integrated our observations from 97 to 2 Hz SPT and calculated the fraction of PARP1/2 molecules that diffuse freely (either slowly or rapidly) or engage in transient and stable binding events. The resulting pie charts show that of the bound molecules, similar fractions of PARP1 and PARP2 participate in transient and stable binding events (Figures 1G–1I and Table S3). Our analysis further revealed that the time constants associated with these binding events ($\tau_{\text{transient}}$ and τ_{stable}) are similar for PARP1 and PARP2 in undamaged cells (Figures 1F and S1J and Table S3).

We next validated the results from 2 Hz SPT experiments using FRAP as an orthogonal approach. Upon fitting the FRAP curves of Halo-PARP1/2 with reaction-dominant model with two states,^{47,61} we found that the FRAP recovery times (PARP1 τ_b : 72.3 s; PARP2 τ_b : 58 s) are in reasonable agreement with the binding times for stable interactions (τ_{stable} , PARP1: 47.6 s and PARP2: 54.7 s), as inferred from 2 Hz SPT (Figure 1J, Tables S3 and S4). Because a significantly larger fraction of PARP1 is bound to chromatin than PARP2 (from 97 Hz SPT, Table S2), consequently the transiently and stably binding fractions of PARP1 are also larger than those of PARP2 (from 2 Hz SPT, Figures 1H and 1I).

The majority of PARP1 and PARP2 molecules diffuse freely at laser-induced DNA lesions

To investigate how laser-induced DNA damage affects the dynamics of PARP1/2 in the nucleus, we integrated the approach of laser microirradiation with both 97 and 2 Hz SPT. We first tracked PARP1/2 molecules immediately after laser-induced DNA damage (405 nm) using 97 Hz SPT in a rectangular region of interest (ROI, damage region, blue) and at similar-sized control regions above (red) and below the ROI (green) (Figure 2A). Upon analyzing the PARP1 data with the three-state model of Spot-On, we found that there were no significant changes in the fraction and diffusion coefficients of bound, slow, and fast-diffusing PARP1 molecules at the site of laser damage, compared to unaffected areas of the nucleus (Figure 2B and Table S5). This is consistent with previous findings (Figure 1H, Tables S2 and S5).⁴² In contrast, the bound fraction of PARP2 significantly increased (F_{bound} : from 0.2 to 0.32) at the damage region compared to other regions in the nucleus (Figure 2C, Table S5). Notably, the majority of PARP1 (0.64) and PARP2 (0.68) molecules are still not stably bound but exist in slow- and fast-diffusing states at the damage region (Table S5, $F_{\text{slow}} + F_{\text{fast}}$), suggesting that though DNA damage leads to an enrichment, there is still rapid exchange between the chromatin bound and freely diffusing proteins.

To better understand the properties of the fraction of PARP1 and PARP2 that are bound at regions subjected to DNA damage, we performed 2 Hz SPT and analyzed trajectories of PARP1/2 molecules immediately after the laser pulse. We found that PARP1 molecules classified in the transiently bound category were stabilized at DNA lesions compared to PARP1 molecules in undamaged cells ($\tau_{\text{transient}}$, PARP1: 3–5.9 s), but still displaced \sim 4-fold faster than the molecules in the stably bound category (Figures 2D and S2A and Table S6). Moreover, we saw an increase in transiently bound PARP1 molecules at the damage site (Figures 2D and S2A and Table S6). For PARP2, a similar retardation of transiently bound PARP2 molecules was observed at the damage site ($\tau_{\text{transient}}$, 2.7–6.9 s), but the fraction of molecules falling into this category did not increase (Figures 2E and S2B and Table S6). Combining results from 97 to 2 Hz SPT allowed us to

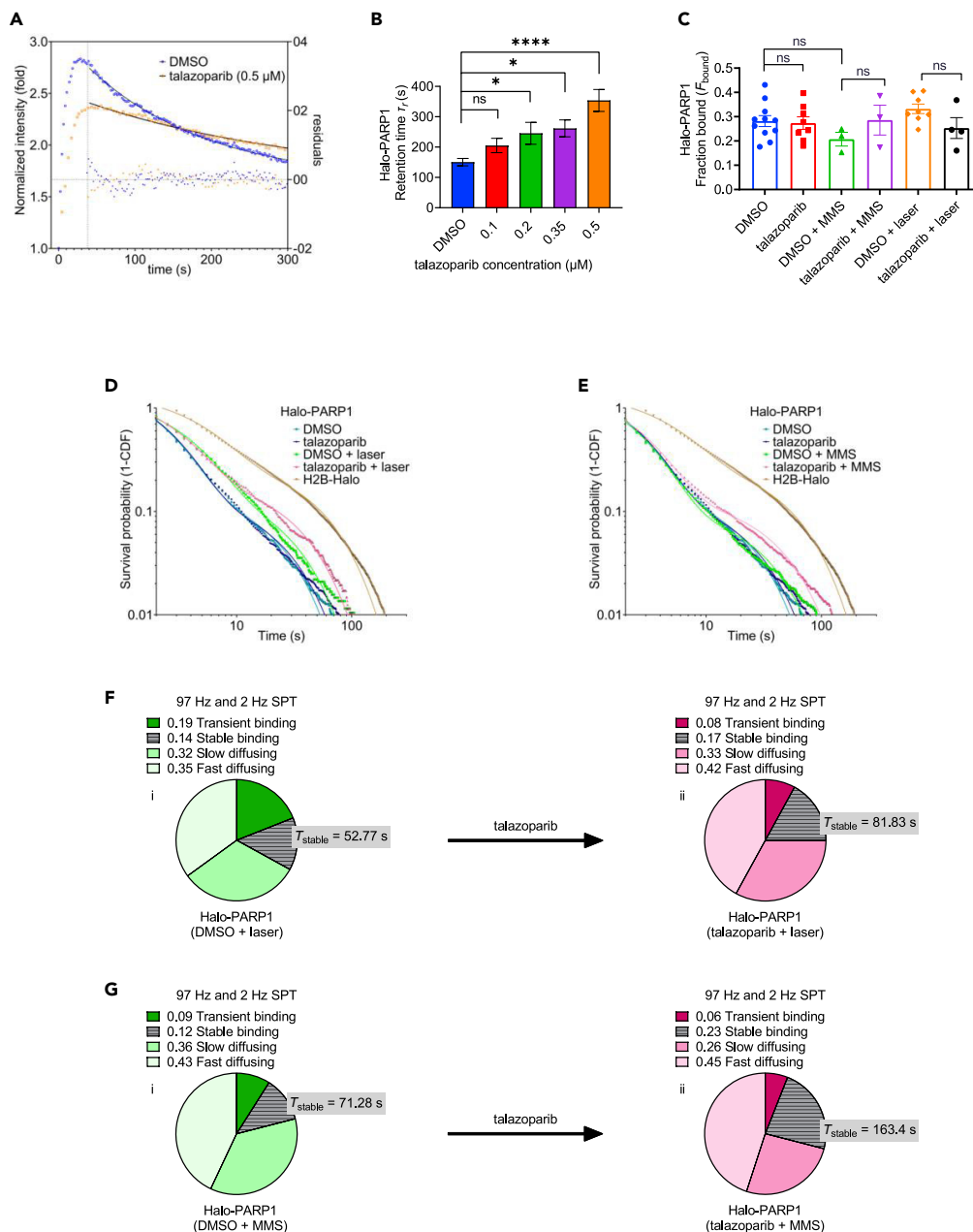


Figure 3. An efficient PARP trapping agent, talazoparib, increases the retention time of only a small fraction of stably binding PARP1 molecules at damage sites

(A) Plot showing the ensemble accumulation of Halo-PARP1 to and release from laser-induced DNA lesions in a single representative cell treated with 0.5 μM talazoparib (orange squares) or DMSO (blue circles). A single exponential model was fit to the portion of the kinetic curve corresponding to the release of Halo-PARP1 from DNA lesions (red curve), starting from intensity at maximum amplitude (dashed blue line). Fit residuals are shown as orange or blue dots.

(B) Halo-PARP1 retention time (τ_r) derived from single exponential model fits to the portion of the kinetic curve corresponding to the release of Halo-PARP1 from DNA lesions. A plot of points representing the mean \pm SEM of PARP1 retention time (τ_r) from ≥ 20 cells from 2 to 4 independent replicate experiments/condition for increasing talazoparib concentrations (0.1, 0.2, 0.35, and 0.5 μM). Model fitting was performed individually for each cell. Statistical differences between groups were evaluated using ordinary one-way ANOVA and Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test to compare each group with DMSO control ($\tau_r = 150.38 \pm 12.17$, $n = 28$, >3 independent replicates).

(C) Fraction bound (F_{bound}) of Halo-PARP1 inferred from Spot-On's three-state model fitting to 97 Hz SPT data in DMSO or 0.5 μM talazoparib-treated cells in the presence or absence of MMS- or laser-induced DNA breaks. Bar graphs show the

Figure 3. Continued

mean $F_{\text{bound}} \pm \text{SEM}$ from $\geq 30,000$ trajectories (>3 detections) from ≥ 45 cells from ≥ 3 independent replicates, each of which were fitted separately. Statistical differences between groups were determined using ordinary one-way ANOVA and Bonferroni's multiple comparison tests.

(D and E) Log-log plots showing the uncorrected survival probability (1-CDF) of individual Halo-PARP1 molecules and their respective two-phase exponential model fits to 2 Hz SPT data in DMSO or talazoparib-treated cells in the presence or absence of laser damage (in D) or MMS damage (in E). Each curve represents data merged from ≥ 880 trajectories from ≥ 13 cells from ≥ 3 independent replicates. Data acquired for H2B-Halo (11,737 trajectories from ≥ 40 cells from 10 independent replicates) were used for photobleaching correction and thereby deriving values for $\tau_{\text{transient}}$ and τ_{stable} (See Table S12).

(F and G) Pie chart illustrations summarizing the τ_{stable} and overall fractions of Halo-PARP1 in DMSO (in i) or 0.5 μM talazoparib (in ii)-treated cells in the presence of laser damage (in F) or MMS damage (in G). Each pie chart represents data compiled from 97 to 2 Hz SPT experiments.

determine how the distribution of PARP1 and PARP2 changes at DNA lesions (Figures 2F and 2G). Together, these results detail the dynamics of PARP1 and PARP2 at laser-induced DNA lesions and suggest that while a majority of PARP1 and PARP2 molecules freely diffuse even in areas of intense DNA damage, the small fraction engaged in transient interactions is stabilized in areas of DNA damage, even in the absence of PARPi.

An efficient PARP trapping agent, talazoparib, increases the retention time of only a small fraction of stably bound PARP1 molecules at damage sites

To understand how PARPi affect PARP1 exchange at laser-induced damage sites, we first performed laser microirradiation and Q-FADD analysis for ensemble PARP1 accumulation in genome-edited Halo-PARP1 U2OS cells treated with talazoparib, a clinical PARPi known to be the most efficient PARP trapping agent.^{33–35,39} We observed a concentration-dependent decrease in D_{eff} of PARP1, but not in F_{m} , suggesting that endogenous PARP1 (when viewed as an ensemble) accumulates slower and is stalled at broken DNA ends upon treatment with talazoparib (Table S7). We followed the dynamics of ensemble PARP1 release from damage foci in the presence of talazoparib. Upon fitting the portion of the curve corresponding to the decay of PARP1 with a single exponential model, we quantitated the retention time (τ_r) of PARP1 at the localized damage region (Figure 3A). Talazoparib resulted in a significant concentration-dependent increase in the retention time of endogenous PARP1 at chromatin regions with an abundance of DNA damage (Figure 3B, Table S7), consistent with recent findings in transfected cell lines.^{37,42,45,62}

To further investigate the molecular dynamics of PARP1 stalling at DNA lesions, we utilized laser microirradiation in conjunction with 97 Hz SPT in talazoparib-treated cells. With this approach, we found that talazoparib neither increased the bound fraction (F_{bound}) nor significantly decreased the diffusion coefficients (D_{fast} or D_{slow}) of PARP1 at radiation-induced DNA lesions (Figure 3C, Table S10). Similar results were also obtained when methylmethanesulfonate (MMS), an alkylating agent, was used to induce DNA damage (Figure 3C, Table S10). Together, these data imply that a majority of endogenous PARP1 molecules that were diffusing either slowly or rapidly are still doing so, and that fraction of bound PARP1 molecules did not change even in the presence of DNA damage and efficient PARP trapping agents.

We next performed 2 Hz SPT on Halo-PARP1 cells to characterize the bound fraction of endogenous PARP1 at DNA breaks in PARPi-treated cells. We found that talazoparib increased both the fraction (0.43–0.70) and the duration (τ_{stable} , 52.8–81.8 s) of PARP1 molecules engaging in stable binding events and concurrently decreased the fraction (0.57–0.30) of transiently bound PARP1 molecules at laser-induced DNA breaks (Figures 3D and S3A, Table S12). Use of MMS for DNA damage induction resulted in similar changes in the stably (0.55–0.79) and transiently (0.45–0.21) bound fractions with an even larger increase in τ_{stable} (71.3–163.4 s) (Figures 3E and S3B and Table S12). In sum, these data suggest that talazoparib in the presence of DNA damage increases the fraction and retention time of the small fraction of PARP1 molecules involved in stable interactions at DNA lesions by trapping some of the transient-binding PARP1 that had increased due to damage alone (Figures 2F and 2G). These results explain the slower release of PARP1 from sites of damage we observed in ensemble measurements in presence of talazoparib (Figures 3A and 3B, Table S7).

We then integrated our results from 2 and 97 Hz SPT experiments and deduced the overall fractions of PARP molecules participating in transient or stable binding events at laser- or MMS-induced damage sites

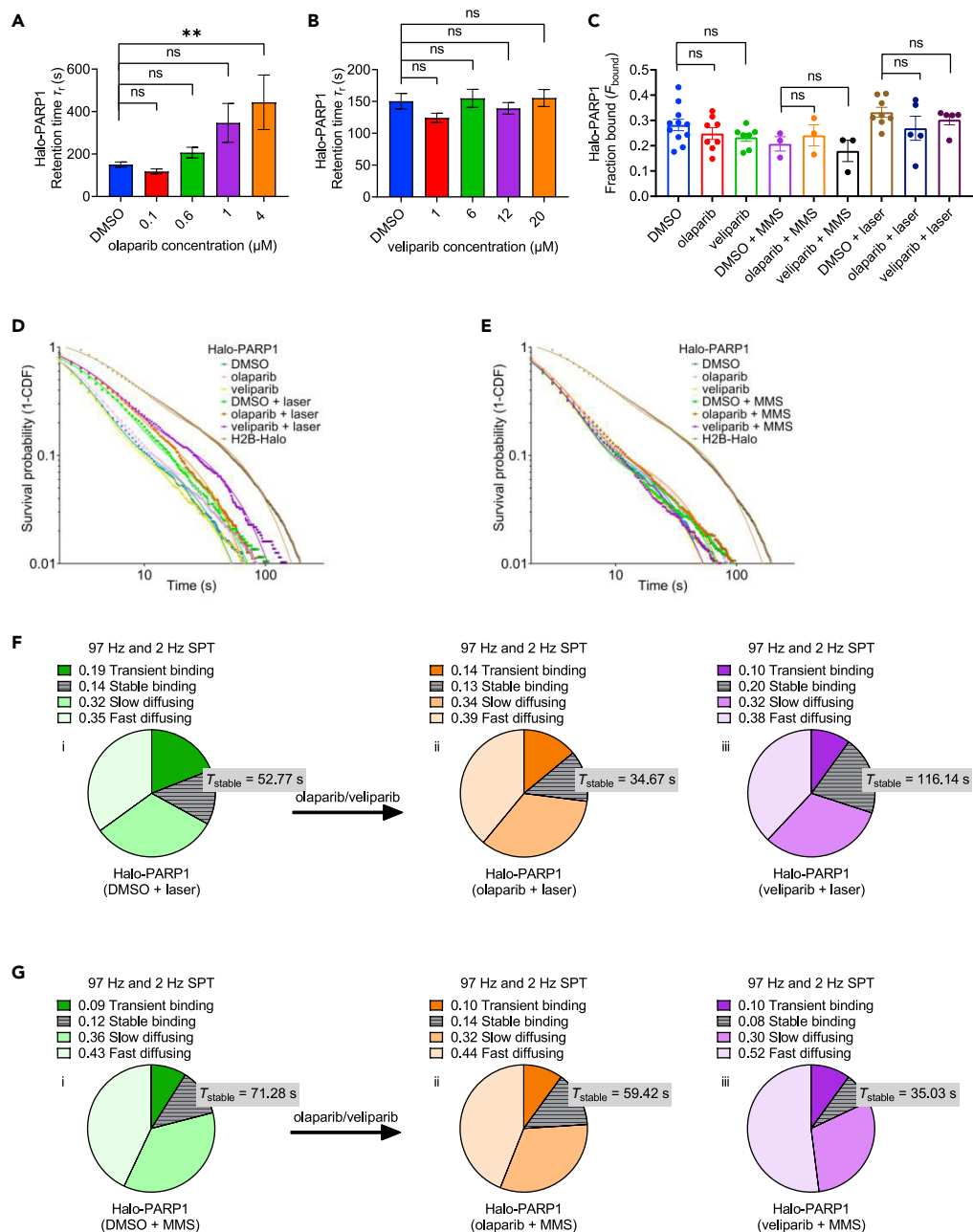


Figure 4. Weaker PARP trapping agents olaparib and veliparib exert distinct effects on the retention time of stably binding PARP1 molecules

(A and B) Halo-PARP1 retention time (τ_r) derived from single exponential model fits to the portion of the kinetic curve corresponding to the release of Halo-PARP1 from DNA lesions. A plot of points representing the mean \pm SEM of PARP1 retention time (τ_r) from ≥ 14 cells from ≥ 2 independent replicate experiments/condition for increasing olaparib concentrations (0.1, 0.6, 1, and 4 μM) (in A) and veliparib concentration (1, 4, 6, 12, and 20 μM) (in B). Model fitting was performed individually for each cell. Statistical differences between groups were evaluated using ordinary one-way ANOVA and Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test to compare each group with DMSO control ($\tau_r = 150.38 \pm 12.17$, $n = 28$, >3 independent replicates).

(C) Fraction bound (F_{bound}) of Halo-PARP1 inferred from Spot-On's three-state model fitting to 97 Hz SPT data in DMSO, olaparib (4 μM), and veliparib (4 μM)-treated cells in the presence or absence of MMS or laser-induced DNA breaks. Bar graphs show the mean $F_{\text{bound}} \pm$ SEM from $\geq 26,000$ trajectories (>3 detections) from ≥ 45 cells from ≥ 3 independent replicates, each of which were fitted separately. Statistical differences between groups were determined using ordinary one-way ANOVA and Bonferroni's multiple comparison tests.

Figure 4. Continued

(D and E) Log-log plots showing the uncorrected survival probability (1-CDF) of individual Halo-PARP1 molecules and their respective two-phase exponential model fits to 2 Hz SPT data in DMSO, olaparib (4 μ M), or veliparib (4 μ M)-treated cells in the presence or absence of laser damage (in D) or MMS damage (in E). Each curve represents data merged from ≥ 874 trajectories from ≥ 12 cells from ≥ 3 independent replicates. Data acquired for H2B-Halo (11,737 trajectories from ≥ 40 cells from 10 independent replicates) were used for photobleaching correction and thereby deriving values for $\tau_{\text{transient}}$ and τ_{stable} (See Table S12).

(F and G) Pie chart illustrations summarizing the τ_{stable} and overall fractions of Halo-PARP1 in DMSO (in i), olaparib (4 μ M) (in ii), or veliparib (4 μ M) (in iii)-treated cells in the presence of laser damage (in F) or MMS damage (in G). Each pie chart represents data compiled from 97 to 2 Hz SPT experiments.

in PARPi-treated cells (Figures 3F and 3G and Table S14). These results suggest that efficient PARP trappers such as talazoparib “trap” only a small fraction of PARP1 molecules, converting some of the transient binders into stable binders at DNA lesions.

Weaker PARP trapping agents olaparib and veliparib exert distinct effects on the retention time of stably binding PARP1 molecules

We next characterized PARP1 exchange at DNA lesions in the presence of two other well-known PARPi: olaparib (a moderate but weaker PARP1 trapping agent than talazoparib) and veliparib (a poor PARP1 trapping agent), as classified in previous studies.^{33,34} We first determined the ensemble accumulation properties (D_{eff} and F_m) and ensemble retention time τ_r , for Halo-PARP1 following laser-induced DNA lesions upon treatment with olaparib and veliparib. At higher concentrations of olaparib, we observed a significant increase in τ_r , but no concentration-dependent changes were seen for values of D_{eff} and F_m (Figure 4A, Table S8). In contrast, treatment with increasing concentrations of veliparib did not result in significant changes in τ_r , D_{eff} , or F_m (Figure 4B, Table S9). These results suggest that both olaparib and veliparib do not impair ensemble PARP1 accumulation, and that at higher concentrations, olaparib, but not veliparib, induces PARP1 stalling at DNA lesions (Figures 4A and 4B, Tables S8 and S9).

Upon investigating the effect of olaparib and veliparib on single-molecule PARP1 dynamics at laser- or MMS-induced DNA breaks using 97 Hz SPT, we found that, like talazoparib, the weaker PARP trappers olaparib and veliparib did not change F_{bound} , D_{slow} , or D_{fast} of PARP1 molecules (Figure 4C, Table S10). These data suggest that neither of these drugs affects the properties of the majority of endogenous PARP1 molecules at DNA lesions. Furthermore, analysis of the bound fraction using 2 Hz SPT suggests that olaparib neither affects the binding time nor the fraction of transiently or stably interacting PARP1 molecules at laser- or MMS-induced DNA lesions (Figures 4D, 4E, S4A, and S4B, Table S12). Surprisingly, at laser-induced DNA lesions, we found that veliparib had similar effects as talazoparib in increasing long-lived binding molecules (0.43–0.66) at the expense of more short-lived (0.57–0.34) PARP1-binding events. Additionally, as for treatment with talazoparib, laser damage in the presence of veliparib increased τ_{stable} (52.8 s–116.1 s) of PARP1 molecules, an effect that was not observed at MMS-induced DNA lesions (Figures 4D, 4E, S4A, and S4B, Table S12). We then determined the overall fractions of transiently and stably binding PARP1 molecules by merging our results from 97 to 2 Hz SPT for olaparib and veliparib (Figures 4F and 4G, Table S14). Collectively, these results reveal an unexpected property of veliparib in that it prolongs the dwell time of stably bound PARP1 molecules immediately after laser damage, but not after base damage induced by the alkylating agent, MMS. This is in contrast with olaparib, which does not have a significant effect on any of the properties of PARP1 in response to either type of damage.

Trapping of stably bound PARP2 molecules is mediated by talazoparib even in the absence of DNA damage

We next applied these same methods to delineate the molecular basis of PARP2 trapping at sites of DNA lesions in PARPi-treated cells. We first performed 97 Hz SPT in the presence of talazoparib, olaparib, or veliparib to study PARP2 dynamics at DNA lesions induced by laser irradiation or MMS. As seen for PARP1, none of these inhibitors affected parameters of PARP2 including F_{bound} , D_{slow} , and D_{fast} at DNA lesions (Figure 5A, Table S11). Using 2 Hz SPT to study the bound fraction of PARP2 revealed that talazoparib, but not olaparib or veliparib, increased both the fraction and the duration of PARP2 molecules partaking in stable chromatin interactions both in undamaged and MMS-treated cells but not in laser-damaged cells (Figures 5B, 5C, S5A, and S5B, Table S13). Upon integrating our results from 97 to 2 Hz SPT, we determined the overall fractions of transient and stably bound PARP2 molecules in undamaged, laser-damaged, and

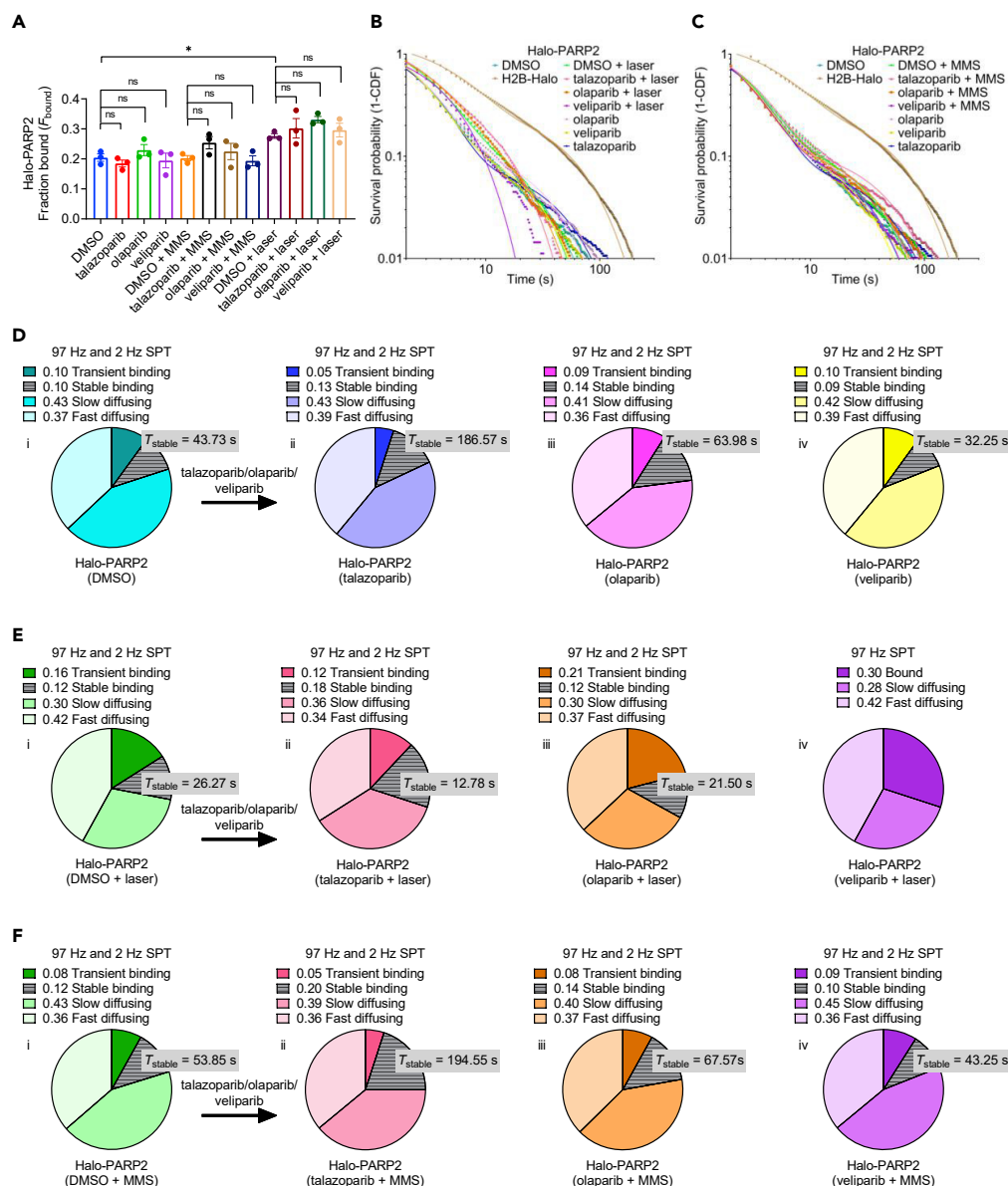


Figure 5. Trapping of stably bound PARP2 molecules is mediated by talazoparib even in the absence of DNA damage

(A) Fraction bound (F_{bound}) of Halo-PARP2 inferred from Spot-On's three-state model fitting to 97 Hz SPT data in DMSO, olaparib (4 μ M), veliparib (4 μ M), or talazoparib (0.5 μ M)-treated cells in the presence or absence of MMS- or laser-induced DNA breaks. Bar graphs show the mean $F_{bound} \pm$ SEM from $\geq 7,000$ trajectories (>3 detections) from ≥ 12 cells from ≥ 3 independent replicates, each of which were fitted separately. Statistical differences between groups were determined using ordinary one-way ANOVA and Bonferroni's multiple comparison tests. Note that we could see a significant increase in F_{bound} for PARP2 upon laser damage in DMSO-treated cells, consistent with results shown in Figure 2C.

(B and C) Log-log plots showing the uncorrected survival probability (1-CDF) of individual Halo-PARP2 molecules and their respective two-phase exponential model fits to 2 Hz SPT data in DMSO, olaparib (4 μ M), or veliparib (4 μ M), or talazoparib (0.5 μ M)-treated cells in the presence or absence of laser damage (in B) or MMS damage (in C). Each curve represents data merged from ≥ 625 trajectories from ≥ 12 cells from ≥ 3 independent replicates. Data acquired for H2B-Halo (11,737 trajectories from ≥ 40 cells from 10 independent replicates) were used for photobleaching correction and thereby deriving values for $\tau_{transient}$ and τ_{stable} (See Table S13).

(D–F) Pie chart illustrations summarizing the τ_{stable} and overall fractions of Halo-PARP2 in DMSO (in i), talazoparib (0.5 μ M) (in ii), olaparib (4 μ M) (in iii), or veliparib (4 μ M) (in iv)-treated cells in undamaged conditions (in D), in the presence of laser

Figure 5. Continued

damage (in E) or MMS damage (in F). Each pie chart represents data compiled from 97 to 2 Hz SPT experiments, except for veliparib in the presence of laser damage [5E (iv)], where fits to 2 Hz SPT data were unstable and inconclusive.

MMS-treated cells (Figures 5D–5F, Table S15). Together, our results suggest that entrapment of stably binding PARP2 molecules by talazoparib occurs independent of induced DNA lesions.

DISCUSSION

Studies spanning more than five decades have contributed to our expansive knowledge regarding the structure and biological function of PARP1 and PARP2. Here, we describe for the first time, at the single-molecule level in live mammalian cells, how these abundant proteins i) navigate the native, undamaged nuclear environment, ii) recognize DNA lesions, and iii) are stalled by PARPi at DNA lesions.

Less than a third of the observed PARP1 and PARP2 population is chromatin bound in undamaged cells

PARP1 is an abundantly expressed protein with a stoichiometry of one PARP1 molecule for every ~20 nucleosomes and is an integral component of chromatin.⁶³ Previous studies with purified protein have shown that un-PARYlated PARP1 associates with intact chromatin lacking free ends.^{8,15,16,64} Genome-wide approaches have captured steady-state snapshots of its genomic interactions.^{19,20,65} *In vitro* single-molecule experiments suggest that PARP1 decorates DNA and compacts it by stabilizing crossover points.^{18,66,67} These observations collectively point to a role of PARP1 in shaping chromatin architecture. Through the direct visualization of the dynamic states of PARPs within live undamaged cells, our work revealed that less than one-third of all PARP1 proteins are chromatin bound while the majority of PARP1 molecules (71%) diffuse within the nucleoplasmic space (Figures 1D and 1E and Table S2), possibly via the “monkey-bar” mechanism.⁴³ Even the bound fraction of PARP1 (29%) includes molecules that engage in rapid chromatin probing (transient interactions, 12% of the 29% with $\tau_{\text{transient}} \sim 3$ s), and as such only a small fraction can be considered as “immobile” (17% of the 29%, $\tau_{\text{stable}} \sim 48$ s) (Figure 1H, Table S3).

For comparison, linker histone H1 is a major structural component of chromatin that is also abundant in cells (one H1 per nucleosome).^{68–70} PARP1 and H1 reciprocally occupy gene promoters and other genomic loci.^{19,71} While nucleosomal core histones remain stably associated (e.g., H2B, dwell time = hours), linker histone H1 exchanges rapidly on chromatin with dwell times of only ~3 min, comparable to PARP1 (~1 min) (Table S3).^{72–74} PARP2, which has very different DNA-binding domains and much lower abundance than PARP1, has similar temporal characteristics as PARP1 (Figure 1I, Table S2), suggesting that its long-lived interactions may also contribute to chromatin architecture.

Transient chromatin interactions of PARP1 and PARP2 are stabilized at laser-induced DNA lesions

Ensemble laser microirradiation is one of the most widely used methods for generating localized DNA breaks to study the biological response to DNA damage in live cells.^{53,75} We and others have obtained valuable insights into the recruitment of PARP1/2, demonstrating that endogenous and overexpressed PARP1 accumulates significantly faster than PARP2 at laser-induced DNA lesions (Figure S1E, Table S1).^{2,3,14,76} More recent work using ensemble microirradiation combined with FRAP suggests that PARP1 undergoes rapid turnover at sites of DNA lesions,⁴² challenging the concept of PARP trapping. Here, we have implemented a workflow that allows coupling of laser microirradiation with single-particle tracking (SPT) that provide both spatial and temporal resolution for a detailed investigation of the dynamics and binding events of PARP1/2 at localized DNA lesions (Figure 2). We find that PARP1 molecules rapidly exchange at sites of DNA damage, without changes in its bound fraction (F_{bound}) or diffusion coefficients (D_{fast} and D_{slow}) (Figure 2B and Table S5). Induction of DNA damage results in an increase in the local concentration of PARP1/2 (ensemble accumulation of PARPs) but does not affect the behavior of the majority of proteins in damaged regions. Laser irradiation damage does increase the dwell time of the fraction of PARP1/2 molecules (for up to 7 s) partaking in transient but does not affect stable chromatin binding (Figures 2F and 2G, Table S6). Transient and stable chromatin-binding modes may correspond to the different conformations of PARP1/2 on intact vs. damaged DNA. Previous studies suggest that the Zn and BRCT domains of PARP1 are involved in binding intact DNA⁷⁷ whereas the Zn and WGR domains

engage at broken DNA ends to activate PARP1.⁷⁸ The transient association at DNA damage sites is sufficient for PARP1/2 to undergo self- and transPARylation ($k_{\text{cat}} \sim 5\text{--}10 \text{ s}^{-1}$)⁷⁹ and thus set in motion downstream repair mechanisms before they are released from DNA breaks.

Certain PARP inhibitors trap PARP1 by extending its stable interactions with chromatin

Despite the success of PARPi in the clinic, which is attributed at least in part to PARP trapping, the molecular mechanism of PARP trapping is poorly understood. We elucidate here for the first time the changes in the dynamic properties of single particles of PARP1/2 at sites of DNA damage in the presence of PARPi. For both radiation (laser)-induced damage and chemical (MMS) damage, 97 Hz SPT revealed that the exchange of the majority of PARP1 molecules is unaffected by the presence of PARPi, irrespective of whether they are classified as efficient or inefficient PARP trapping agents (Figures 3C and 4C, Table S10). Most likely, the number of PARP1 molecules greatly exceeds the number of damage sites in our studies, and this could explain how the majority of PARP1 molecules are unaffected by DNA damage in the presence of an excess of PARPi. Our 2 Hz SPT data suggest that the effect of PARP trapping is subtle and nuanced for the different PARPi, and does not correlate with their cytotoxicity (Figures 3B and 4A, Tables S7–S9). For example, for the strong PARP-trapper talazoparib, both the dwell time and the fraction (12%–14%) of stable binding PARP1 increase upon damage induced by laser microirradiation or MMS (Figures 3F and 3G). We observe the stabilization of only the small fraction of PARP1 that participates in stable chromatin interactions. Trapping of this small (or an even smaller undetectable) population may be sufficient for inducing cell death by such mechanism such as replicative fork stalling and reversal,²³ unligated Okazaki fragment formation,²⁴ or post-replicative ssDNA gaps.²⁵ Unexpectedly, the poor trapper veliparib shows a similar effect as talazoparib, but only after microirradiation, and not with MMS (Figures 4F and 4G). It was also unexpected that the medium trapper olaparib does not cause significant changes in fraction or dwell times for any of the populations of PARP1, bound or unbound (Figures 4F and 4G). The lack of correlation between cellular potency and our trapping observations further confirms that cellular potency of PARPi is driven by their affinity toward PARP1/2, not PARP trapping.^{40,41}

The subtle changes we observe in the amount of PARP1 trapped at DNA lesions upon treatment with PARPi are in contrast to the significant fraction of PARP1 trapping that is observed in Western blot measurements after cell lysis.^{32–37,39,80} In these Western blot experiments, the overall amounts of PARP1 associated with chromatin increased with inhibitor treatment upon induction of DNA damage by factors of >10-fold and up to 50% of total PARP1 compared to the controls. In our experiments, the amount of PARP1/2 tightly bound to chromatin changes by only small amounts compared to the controls (at most 2-fold). Our results are in agreement with ensemble FRAP experiments where niraparib and talazoparib do not physically stall PARP1 at DNA lesions in live cells.⁴² Our results suggest that PARP1/2 retention at DNA lesions can occur even in the absence of stable binding upon PARPi treatment. We surmise that cells treated with PARPi for extended periods of time in the presence of DNA damaging agents accumulate more and more lesions, which in turn lead to increased accumulation of PARP1 in the chromatin fraction even though the actual dynamics in the intact cell are much more subtle. It is also possible that DNA damage incurred during cell lysis and sample preparation in these previous reports yield artificially higher levels of PARP trapping.

Talazoparib traps stably bound PARP2 molecules independent of induced DNA breaks

PARP2 is inhibited by PARPi to the same extent as PARP1,⁴⁰ an expected result given the similarity in the active sites of these two proteins. Although the efficacy of PARPi in the cell is primarily attributed to inhibition of PARP1,^{11,32,42} trapping of PARP2 at DNA lesions may contribute to the mechanism of cell toxicity. PARP2 behaves very similarly to PARP1 at sites of DNA damage wherein a majority of PARP2 molecules exchange rapidly even in the presence of PARPi (Figure 5A and Table S11). Also, as for PARP1, the bound fraction of PARP2 becomes more stable in the presence of talazoparib. For damage induced by MMS, there is an increase in both fraction and dwell time whereas there is a more convoluted and subtle response for damage induced by microirradiation (Figures 5E and 5F). Interestingly, this retention effect with talazoparib is also seen in the absence of DNA damage, hinting at a special role for PARP2 in maintaining DNA integrity during replication stress (Figure 5D, Table S13). These results also point to a PARP1-activity-independent mechanism of recruitment to sites of DNA damage, one that may function in parallel or in lieu of the recently described recruitment by PARP1-mediated PARylation.¹³ Finally, trapping of PARP2 is not detectable with olaparib or veliparib (Figures 5D–5F, Table S13).

Conclusion

Based on clinical experience and strong sales volume, PARPi are important and effective tools for the treatment of an increasing number of cancers. However, as with other cancer treatments that have undesired side effects⁸¹ and are prone to resistance,⁸² there is much room for improvement in the development of next-generation PARPi. Our quantitative single-molecule studies in live cells challenge the classical trapping mechanism that was inferred from immunoblotting of chromatin-bound PARP1 following cell lysis,^{32,34} and independently by ensemble laser microirradiation [this work and^{37,42,45,62}]. Our results suggest that PARP inhibition does not cause widespread immobilization of PARPs on damaged DNA. At most, PARP inhibition slows the dynamics of a small subset of PARP molecules at damage sites, which might be sufficient to cause downstream replication fork collapse and genomic instability. Our observation that the trapped fraction of PARP1 is surprisingly small suggests that more efficacious PARPi would have specificity for this small population of PARP1 that has adopted the DNA-bound conformation. Given that the concentration of PARP1 in the nucleus is many orders of magnitude larger than the amount of typical DNA damage, developing inhibitors that specifically target this minor state could reduce dosing requirements and therefore off-target effects. Promising starts in this direction have been reported⁴⁵ and we look forward to further developments in this direction.

Limitations of the study

First, since anti-PARP1/2 antibodies failed to detect Halo-tagged PARP1/2, we could not compare the expression levels to an untagged control. The study is based on the use of a single clone for each PARP1 and PARP2, and the tagged cell line of PARP1 expresses a much lower level of PARP1 than cells with the endogenous gene. Second, even though we have clearly delineated the temporal and spatial dynamics of endogenous PARP1/PARP2 in our work, the exact molecular mechanism of how slowly diffusing PARP1/2 molecules become transiently bound upon laser DNA damage, and how transiently bound PARP1/2 molecules are converted to stably bound molecules at DNA lesions in the presence of PARPi is yet to be understood. Third, as is true for all live-cell single-molecule imaging studies, although we can locate individual molecules with millisecond and nanometer precision in time and space, DNA sequence information is missing, and we do not know where in the genome PARP1/2 binds more stably, and whether these more stably bound molecules are bound to DNA damage. Future experiments may be able to overcome these limitations.

STAR★METHODS

Detailed methods are provided in the online version of this paper and include the following:

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Supplemental information can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.isci.2022.105779>.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Conceptualization, J.M., J.R., and K.L.; methodology, J.M., J.R., and A.S.H.; software, S.B., D.N., and A.S.H.; validation, J.M., A.J., and J.R.; formal analysis, J.M., A.J., and J.R.; investigation, J.M., A.J., and J.R.; Writing - Original Draft, J.M.; Writing - Review and Editing, J.M., A.J., J.R., S.B., D.N., A.S.H., and K.L.; Supervision, K.L.; Project Administration, J.M.; Funding Acquisition, J.M., A.S.H., and K.L.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None of the authors have any competing interests.

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

We support inclusive, diverse, and equitable conduct of research.

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STAR★METHODS

KEY RESOURCES TABLE

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Antibodies		
Anti-FLAG monoclonal antibody	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#A8592; RRID: AB_439702
Anti-GAPDH polyclonal antibody	Abcam	Cat#ab9485; RRID: AB_307275
Anti-PAR antibody	Trevigen	Clone10H; 4335-MC-100; RRID:AB_2572318
AlexaFluor647 goat anti-mouse	InVitrogen	A21236; RRID:AB_2535805
Bacterial and virus strains		
NEB 5-alpha Competent <i>E. coli</i>	New England Biolabs	Cat#C2987
Chemicals, peptides, and recombinant proteins		
Talazoparib	Selleck Chemicals	Cat#S7048; CAS: 1207456-01-6
Olaparib	Selleck Chemicals	Cat#S1060; CAS: 763113-22-0
Veliparib	Selleck Chemicals	Cat#S1004; CAS: 912444-00-9
DMSO	MP Biomedicals	Cat#196055; CAS: 67-68-5
Methylmethanesulfonate	Sigma Aldrich	Cat#129925; CAS: 66-27-3
Puromycin (10 mg/mL)	ThermoFisher Scientific	Cat#A1113803
JF646 HaloTag Ligand	Grimm et al. ⁵⁰	N/A
GlutaMAX Supplement	ThermoFisher Scientific	Cat#35050061
Immobilon Classico Western HRP substrate	Millipore Sigma	Cat#WBLUC0100
Critical commercial assays		
Amaxa Cell line Nucleofector Kit V	Lonza	Cat#VCA1003
NEBuilder HiFi DNA Assembly Master Mix	New England Biolabs	Cat#E2621
Experimental models: Cell lines		
U2OS	Gookin et al. ⁸³	N/A
U2OS, Flag-HaloTag-PARP1	This Paper	N/A
U2OS, Flag-HaloTag-PARP2	This Paper	N/A
U2OS, H2B-Halo-SNAP	Hansen et al. ⁴⁷	N/A
Oligonucleotides		
sgRNA PARP1 (a): CACCGGGGATGGCGGAGTCTT	This Paper	N/A
sgRNA PARP1 (b): AAACAAGACTCCGCCATCCTCCCC	This Paper	N/A
sgRNA PARP2 (a): CACCGCGAATTCATGGCGGCGCGG	This Paper	N/A
sgRNA PARP2 (b): AAACCCGCGCCGCCATGGAATTCGC	This Paper	N/A
PARP1 PCR primer for HiFi Assembly (1): AACAGCTA TGACCATGATTACGCCAAGCTTCGTCTGTGATGA CTATTGCC	This Paper	N/A
PARP1 PCR primer for HiFi Assembly (2): GGTCCTT GTAGTCCATCCTCCCCTAGCTGCCGCCAAAGCT CCGGAAGCCCG	This Paper	N/A
PARP1 PCR primer for HiFi Assembly (3): CGCGATC GGTACCGCGGAGTCTTCGATAAGCTCTATCGAG TCGAGTACGCCAAGAGCGG	This Paper	N/A
PARP1 PCR primer for HiFi Assembly (4): CGACGTT GTAAAACGACGGCCAGTGAATTCTTGGGTAATAT GTTGGAAGCGAGGAGGAAC	This Paper	N/A

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Continued

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Halo Tag PCR primer for HiFi Assembly for PARP1 (1): CTAGGGGAGGATGGACTACAAAGACCATGACG	This Paper	N/A
Halo Tag PCR primer for HiFi Assembly for PARP1 (2): CCGAAGACTCCGCGGTACCGATCGCGTTATC	This Paper	N/A
PARP2 PCR primer for HiFi Assembly (1): AACAGCTA TGACCATGATTACGCCAAGCTTCATGGTTC CCTCTGTTCC	This Paper	N/A
PARP2 PCR primer for HiFi Assembly (2): GGTCTT TGTAGTCCATGGAATTCGAACGCTG	This Paper	N/A
PARP2 PCR primer for HiFi Assembly (3): GGTACC GCGGCGCGCGGCGACGG	This Paper	N/A
PARP2 PCR primer for HiFi Assembly (4): GTTGTA AAACGACGGCCAGTGAATTCATGTTGCCAGG CTGGTCTCGAACTCGTG	This Paper	N/A
Halo Tag PCR primer for HiFi Assembly for PARP2 (1): TTCGAATCCATGGACTACAAAGACCATGACGG	This Paper	N/A
Halo Tag PCR primer for HiFi Assembly for PARP2 (1): CGCGCCGCGGTACCGATCGCGTTATC	This Paper	N/A

Recombinant DNA

3xFlag-HaloTag-EZH2 HDR - pDY053	Youmans et al. ⁵⁴	Addgene: 171108
px330	Cong et al. ⁸⁴	Addgene: 42230
px330-PARP1	This Paper	N/A to be deposited
px330-PARP2	This Paper	N/A to be deposited
3xFlag-HaloTag-PARP1-HDR donor	This Paper	N/A to be deposited
3xFlag-HaloTag-PARP2-HDR donor	This Paper	N/A to be deposited
eGFP-Cre	Le et al. ⁸⁵	Addgene: 11923

Software and algorithms

GraphPad Prism 9.0	N/A	https://www.graphpad.com
qFADD.py	Bowerman et al. ⁸⁶	https://github.com/Luger-Lab/Q-FADD
Spot-On	Hansen et al. ⁵⁷	https://SpotOn.berkeley.edu/
MatLab R2021a	Mathworks Inc. USA	http://mathworks.com
Spot-On (MatLab script)	Hansen et al. ⁵⁷	https://gitlab.com/tjian-darzacq-lab/spot-on-matlab
FRAP data analysis (MatLab script)	Hansen et al. and Sprague et al. ^{47,61}	https://gitlab.com/anders.sejr.hansen/Mahadevan_2022
Localization and tracking of SPT movies (MatLab script)	Hansen et al. and Bowerman et al. ^{47,87}	https://gitlab.com/tjian-darzacq-lab/SPT_LocAndTrack
Localization and tracking of SPT movies (DNA damage) (MatLab script)	This Paper	Modified from: https://gitlab.com/tjian-darzacq-lab/SPT_LocAndTrack

Other

4–12% Criterion™ XT Bis-Tris Protein Gels	Bio-Rad	Cat#3450124
QuickExtract DNA extraction solution	Lucigen	Cat#QE09050

RESOURCE AVAILABILITY

Lead contact

Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the lead contact, Karolin Luger (karolin.luger@colorado.edu).

Materials availability

Any reagents generated in this study are available upon request.

Data and code availability

- All data reported in this paper will be shared by the [lead contact](#) upon request.
- Original code used for data analysis is available on GitHub, as linked in the [key resources table](#).
- Any additional information required to re-analyze the data reported in this paper is available from the [lead contact](#) upon request.

METHOD DETAILS

Mammalian cell culture

Halo-PARP1, Halo-PARP2 and parent U2OS cells were grown in McCoy's 5a medium (Hyclone #SH30200) supplemented with 10% FBS, 2 mM Glutamax-I, 100 U/ml penicillin and 100 µg/mL streptomycin (complete medium). H2B-Halo-SNAP U2OS cells (kind gift from the Tjian-Darzacq laboratory, UC Berkeley, CA) were grown in low glucose DMEM medium (ThermoFisher #10567014) supplemented with 10% FBS, 2 mM Glutamax-I and 100 U/ml penicillin and 100 µg/mL streptomycin (complete medium). All cell lines used in this study were maintained in a humidified incubator at 37°C and 5% CO₂. All cell lines were mycoplasma-free as determined by routine PCR testing.

Cells were grown and imaged on tissue culture coated CELLview slides (Greiner Bio-One # 543079) for all confocal microscopy experiments. For single molecule experiments, cells were directly grown on 35 mm circular imaging dishes (Cat # 81158) or chambered glass slides (Cat # 80807) from ibidi consisting of a #1.5H glass coverslip bottom, suitable for use in TIRF and single molecule applications.

Endogenous tagging of *parp1* and *parp2* genes

To study the dynamics of endogenous PARP1 and PARP2, CRISPR/Cas9 mediated homology-directed repair (HDR) was utilized to precisely introduce HaloTag at the endogenous *parp1* and *parp2* loci with a goal of generating doubly genome edited cell lines.⁸⁸ Towards this, PARP1 and PARP2 sgRNAs were inserted into the *BbsI* site of the px330 plasmid (Addgene # 42230).⁸⁴ pUC19 based HDR (donor) plasmids containing the left and right homology regions were constructed using PCR and NEBuilder HiFi DNA assembly (New England Biosciences, #E2621). The template plasmid used for this process, 3xFlag-Halo-Tag-EZH2 HDR - pDY053, was a gift from Thomas Cech (Addgene plasmid # 171108). Briefly, 10⁶ U2OS cells were transfected with 1 µg of px330 plasmid and 1 µg of the HDR donor plasmid using the Nucleofector 2b device and cell line nucleofector kit V (Lonza, VCA-1003) per manufacturer's protocol. Two days later, transfected cells were trypsinized and expanded in complete medium containing 1 µg/mL puromycin (ThermoFisher Scientific, # A1113803). Cells were grown in puromycin containing medium for a duration of 7 days to select cells that contain genomic integration of the HDR donor plasmid. Appropriate integration of the HaloTag was verified in the selected cell population by PCR. These cells (1.5 × 10⁶) were transfected with 2 µg of plasmid encoding eGFP-Cre recombinase (Addgene # 11923), a gift from Brian Sauer.⁸⁵ To obtain individual clones, cells expressing eGFP were subjected to sorting into single wells of multiple 96-well cell culture plates. Upon expansion, DNA from these cells was extracted using QuickExtract DNA extraction solution (Lucigen # QE09050) and used as a template for confirmation of homologous recombination by PCR and Sanger sequencing. We obtained only one correctly genome edited clone each for PARP1 and PARP2 from 50–100 single cell clones screened for both PARP1 and PARP2 using PCR on genomic DNA.

Dye labeling

For SDS-PAGE, FRAP and ensemble laser microirradiation experiments, genome edited cells were labeled with the Halo-tag ligand JF646 (a kind gift from the Lavis lab, Janelia Farms, Ashburn, VA) at a high concentration of 500 nM for 30 min at 37°C. This was followed by two washes with complete medium containing phenol red and a third wash with complete medium lacking phenol red. Cells were imaged in complete medium lacking phenol red.

For single molecule experiments, cells were labeled with JF646 at a concentration of 2 nM for both Halo-PARP1 and Halo-PARP2 cells for a duration of 30 s and 2 min respectively. For H2B-Halo-SNAP U2OS cells,

JF646 was used at a concentration of 10 μ M. Washes to remove extra dye were carried out as explained in the above paragraph.

For all laser microirradiation experiments (ensemble and single molecule), cells were sensitized to DNA damage using Hoechst 33342 (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) (10 μ g/mL) for 10 minutes prior to the start of imaging.

SDS PAGE and immunoblotting

Cells were lysed using RIPA buffer (150 mM NaCl, 1.0% NP-40, 0.5% sodium deoxycholate, 0.1% SDS, 50 mM Tris, pH 8.0). The resulting whole cell protein extract was used as the protein sample for SDS PAGE and immunoblotting. The protein sample was separated on 4–12% Criterion-XT Bis-Tris gels (Bio-Rad). For SDS-PAGE experiments, JF646 fluorescence on the gel was imaged using the 647 nm channel on the Typhoon 9500 imager (GE Healthcare). For immunoblotting, monoclonal anti-FLAG M2-Peroxidase (HRP) antibody (Millipore # A8592) (1:1000) was utilized, followed by incubation with Immobilon Classico HRP substrate (# WBLUC0500). The chemiluminescence signal was detected on the Azure Biosystems GelDoc.

PARPi and MMS treatment and detection of PAR

All PARPi used in this study (talazoparib, olaparib and veliparib) were purchased from Selleck Chemicals and dissolved in DMSO to prepare stock solutions (2 mM). MMS (99%, Sigma Aldrich) was diluted to a concentration of 0.01% in complete medium. Cells were treated with the indicated concentrations of PARPi and/or MMS for 1 hr at 37°C before dye-labeling and subsequent imaging. The culture medium used for dye labeling, washes and subsequent incubation during imaging contained indicated concentrations of PARPi and/or MMS. PAR formation after treatment with hydrogen peroxide (0.1% for 5 min) in the presence or absence of PARPi was performed using an ELISA as previously described.⁸⁹ Briefly, confluent cells in a 96-well plate (after treatment with hydrogen peroxide in the presence or absence of PARPi) were fixed with 100 μ L of 70% methanol/30% acetone (pre-chilled to -20° C). After washing the wells 3x with phosphate buffered saline (PBS), the wells were blocked with PBS + 5% goat serum + 0.3% Triton X-100 for 1 h at RT. Next, the wells were incubated with the anti-PAR antibody (Trevigen, Clone 10H) as diluted 1:100 in PBS + 0.3% Triton X-100 for 1 h at RT. After 3x washes with PBS, the wells were incubated with labeled goat anti-mouse antibody (Invitrogen A21236) as diluted 1:100 in PBS + 0.3% Triton X-100 + 1 μ g/mL DAPI for 1 h at RT. Following 3x washes with PBS the plate was read in a Clariostar plate reader (BMG) at both 590 nm excitation/675 nm emission (for detecting PAR) and at 358 nm excitation/461 nm emission (for detecting DAPI). The DAPI staining was used to normalize for cell count. We do not detect any PAR over blank controls in undamaged cells.

Ensemble laser microirradiation

Ensemble laser microirradiation was carried out as previously described.¹⁴ Briefly, a rectangular region of interest within the nucleus was subjected to DNA damage using a focused 405 nm laser beam (\sim 1.7 mW). Accumulation of endogenous Halo-PARP1 and Halo-PARP2 was monitored using the 647 nm laser line for 5 min.

Fluorescence recovery after photobleaching (FRAP)

FRAP experiments were performed on an inverted Nikon A1R scanning confocal microscope equipped with a 100 \times oil immersion objective (NA = 1.49), quad emission filter, motorized stage, 647 nm laser line and Okolab stagetop incubator for maintaining environmental conditions of temperature and humidity. Image acquisition was performed at a zoom corresponding to 256 nm \times 256 nm pixel size on Nikon Elements software. A circular region of interest (radius = 10 pixels), placed away from the nuclear envelope, was bleached using the 647 nm laser line (set to 100% laser power, \sim 1.7 mW) for 1 s. Image frames (362) were acquired at \sim 2 frames per second including the first 20 pre-bleach frames for estimating initial baseline fluorescence.

Single molecule imaging (97 Hz and 2 Hz SPT)

Single molecule imaging experiments were carried out on a fully motorized Nikon Ti2-E inverted STORM microscope equipped with a TIRF illuminator, Agilent laser lines (405 nm, 488 nm, 561 nm and 647 nm), Nikon LU-N4 laser lines (405 nm, 488 nm, 561 nm and 640 nm) for single molecule FRAP, cage incubator for

controlling temperature and humidity, two iXon Ultra 897 EMCCD cameras, 100X oil immersion TIRF objective (NA = 1.49), perfect focusing system (PFS) for correcting axial drift. These components were controlled through the NIS Elements software. All the imaging on this microscope was performed under HILO conditions wherein the incident angle was adjusted to improve the signal to background ratio.⁵⁶

For 97 Hz SPT experiments, images were acquired at a frame rate of ~97 Hz and an exposure time of 10 ms using the 647 nm laser line ($\leq 25\%$ laser power) for a total duration of 30 s and a 128 × 128-pixel region of interest was chosen.

For 2 Hz SPT experiments, images were acquired at a frame rate of 2 Hz and an exposure time of 500 ms using the 647 nm laser line set to 4% laser power for a total duration of 5 min and a 128 × 128-pixel region of interest was chosen.

QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Ensemble Laser microirradiation

Analysis of ensemble microirradiation data was carried out using qFADD.py. qFADD.py is a Python implementation of the Q-FADD algorithm and its preprocessing steps, that includes the improvements of correction for nuclear drift and automated grid-search for identifying the best-fit model.⁵² The source code for qFADD.py is available at <https://github.com/Luger-Lab/Q-FADD>. Ensemble dissipation kinetics from the DNA damage region were determined from the ensemble of individual dissipation trajectories, each fit using a single-exponential model. The reported value for retention time is the average across the ensemble of all probed nuclei. Treating each trajectory as an individual datapoint of the population, rather than averaging the dissipation trajectories, allows us to account for the effects of individual nuclear shapes on the underlying kinetics¹⁴ and to determine the error in the ensemble metric by evaluating the standard error of the mean retention time across all nuclei within an experimental condition (i.e., PARPi type and concentration).

Fluorescence recovery after photobleaching (FRAP)

FRAP data was analyzed using a custom-written image analysis pipeline as previously described.⁴⁷ Briefly, movies were read in, the nucleus was segmented by thresholding after the application of a Gaussian filter. Fluorescence intensity in the whole nucleus and in the bleach spot was then quantified over time and background corrected. We used the total nuclear intensity to normalize for photobleaching. We manually corrected for drift. After these corrections, FRAP recovery curves from individual nuclei were averaged to obtain a mean recovery curve. To extract a residence time, we fit a reaction-dominant two-state exponential model⁶¹ to the FRAP curve:

$$FRAP(t) = 1 - Ae^{-k_a t} - Be^{-k_b t}$$

where k_a and k_b are the faster and slower off-rates respectively. Dwell times for transiently (τ_a) and stably binding (τ_b) molecules were calculated as follows:

$$\tau_a = \frac{1}{k_a} \quad \tau_b = \frac{1}{k_b}$$

Localization and tracking of SPT movies

All movies obtained from single molecule imaging were processed using a custom MATLAB implementation of the 'multiple target tracing (MTT)' algorithm.^{47,87} This implementation is available on GitLab: https://gitlab.com/tjian-darzacq-lab/SPT_LocAndTrack.

The following parameters were used to process 97 Hz SPT movies: localization error = $10^{-6.25}$, number of deflation loops = 0, number of gaps allowed in trajectories = 1, maximum expected diffusion coefficient = $6 \mu\text{m}^2/\text{s}$. The following parameters were used to process 2 Hz SPT movies: localization error = $10^{-6.25}$, number of deflation loops = 0, number of gaps allowed in trajectories = 2, maximum expected diffusion coefficient = $0.25 \mu\text{m}^2/\text{s}$. Additional parameters including distance of control ROIs (above and below) from the damage ROI = $3 \mu\text{m}$ and number of additional pixels on all sides for uniform expansion = 3 were used for processing SPT + laser microirradiation data.

Analysis of trajectories from fast 97 Hz SPT movies

To analyze trajectories from the fast 97 Hz movies, we used Spot-On.⁵⁷ Spot-On performs kinetic modeling of displacements to extract the fraction and diffusion coefficient of each subpopulation. Briefly, in Spot-On we model diffusion as Brownian and model particles as existing in either a bound state (low diffusion coefficient) or one or more diffusive states. Since state transitions are negligible at the fast frame rate of 97 Hz, they are not modeled.⁵⁷ A major bias in the analysis of fast 97 Hz SPT data is defocalization. Since we are performing 2D imaging of a 3D nucleus, molecules can move out of focus axially and the rate of defocalization depends strongly on the diffusion coefficient. Spot-On corrects explicitly for this, by modeling loss due to axial diffusion over time and leverages the rate of defocalization as additional information to constrain the estimation of the diffusion coefficient.

We found that a 3-state model consisting of a bound, a slowly diffusing, and a fast-diffusing subpopulation was necessary to fit our SPT data. Thus, the distribution of displacements was fit to:

$$P_3(r, \Delta\tau) = F_{\text{BOUND}} \frac{r}{2(D_{\text{BOUND}}\Delta\tau + \sigma^2)} e^{\frac{-r^2}{4(D_{\text{BOUND}}\Delta\tau + \sigma^2)}} + Z_{\text{CORR}}(\Delta\tau, \Delta z_{\text{corr}}, D_{\text{SLOW}}) F_{\text{SLOW}} \frac{r}{2(D_{\text{SLOW}}\Delta\tau + \sigma^2)} e^{\frac{-r^2}{4(D_{\text{SLOW}}\Delta\tau + \sigma^2)}} + Z_{\text{CORR}}(\Delta\tau, \Delta z_{\text{corr}}, D_{\text{FAST}}) (1 - F_{\text{BOUND}} - F_{\text{SLOW}}) \frac{r}{2(D_{\text{FAST}}\Delta\tau + \sigma^2)} e^{\frac{-r^2}{4(D_{\text{FAST}}\Delta\tau + \sigma^2)}}$$

where:

$$Z_{\text{CORR}}(\Delta\tau) = \frac{1}{\Delta z} \int_{-\Delta z/2}^{\Delta z/2} \left\{ 1 - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \left[\operatorname{erfc} \left(\frac{(2n+1)\Delta z - z}{\sqrt{4D\Delta\tau}} \right) + \operatorname{erfc} \left(\frac{(2n+1)\Delta z + z}{\sqrt{4D\Delta\tau}} \right) \right] \right\} dz$$

and:

$$\Delta z = 0.700 \mu\text{m} + 0.24179\text{s}^{-1/2} \sqrt{D} + 0.20521 \mu\text{m}$$

Here, F_{BOUND} is the fraction of molecules that are bound to chromatin, D_{BOUND} is the diffusion constant of chromatin bound molecules, D_{SLOW} is diffusion constant of the slow subpopulation of freely diffusing molecules, D_{FAST} is the diffusion constant of the slow subpopulation of freely diffusing molecules, r is the displacement length, $\Delta\tau$ is lag time between frames, Δz is axial detection range, σ is localization error and Z_{CORR} corrects for defocalization bias (i.e. the fact that freely diffusing molecules gradually move out-of-focus, but chromatin bound molecules do not).

Model fitting for 97 Hz SPT movies was done using Spot-On's three state model to derive diffusion coefficient and fraction of fast diffusing, slow diffusing and bound molecules.⁵⁷ The following input parameters were used for this analysis: kinetic model = 3 state, $D_{\text{bound}} = 0.0005\text{--}0.08 \mu\text{m}^2/\text{s}$, $D_{\text{slow}} = 0.15\text{--}0.5 \mu\text{m}^2/\text{s}$, $D_{\text{fast}} = 0.5\text{--}25 \mu\text{m}^2/\text{s}$, F_{bound} and $F_{\text{fast}} = 0\text{--}1$, localization error = 0.048, $dZ = 0.7 \mu\text{m}$, Model fit = CDF (Cumulative distribution function) and iterations = 3. The code is freely available at <https://gitlab.com/tjandarczyc-lab/Spot-On-cli>.

Analysis of trajectories from slow 2 Hz SPT movies

Data obtained from 2 Hz SPT experiments were used to plot merged survival curves (from multiple cells imaged over ≥ 3 independent replicates; 99% of all trajectories were used for analysis) indicating the survival probability (1-CDF) of particles at a given time (s). We fitted a two-phase exponential model (GraphPad Prism) to these survival curves to derive the fraction and dwell time (τ) of transient and stable binding events. The following constraints were placed on parameters: Plateau = 0, $\tau_{\text{transient}}$ and $\tau_{\text{stable}} > 0$.

$$P(t) = F_{\text{fast}} e^{-k_{\text{fast}} t} + F_{\text{slow}} e^{-k_{\text{slow}} t}$$

Similarly, a double-exponential was fit to the survival curve of H2B and the slow component was then used to correct for photobleaching (as previously reported⁴⁷) according to:

$$k_{\text{measured}} = k_{\text{true}} + k_{\text{H2B, photobleaching}}$$

This allows us to extract the photobleaching-corrected residence time according to:

$$\tau_{\text{corrected}} = \frac{1}{k_{\text{true}}}$$

Due to the transient binding events being shorter than the stable binding events, they will inherently be overcounted. For example, suppose you have a transient residence time of 1 sec and a stable residence time of 100 sec, where the ON and OFF rates are identical (and $F_{\text{fast}} = F_{\text{slow}}$). During a 200 sec observation window, even though the same number of proteins will be stably and transiently bound, we will observe 100 transient binding events for every stable binding event. Thus, to correct for this bias, we used the following formula:

$$\text{True } F_{\text{fast}} = \frac{(\tau_{\text{fast}} \times F_{\text{fast}})}{[(\tau_{\text{fast}} \cdot F_{\text{fast}}) + (\tau_{\text{slow}} \cdot F_{\text{slow}})]}$$

$$\text{True } F_{\text{slow}} = 1 - \text{True } F_{\text{fast}}$$

Statistical analysis

Statistical testing for all experiments was conducted using GraphPad Prism 9. For every experiment, 2–10 independent replications were performed. Two-tailed, unpaired Student's t-tests were used to determine statistical significance between two groups of data. For experiments with >2 groups of data, ordinary one-way ANOVA and Bonferroni's multiple comparison's tests were used to test for statistical significance. Levels of statistical significance were defined as follows: ns (not significant) $p > 0.05$, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$, **** $p < 0.0001$.

We have included in the figure and table legends, details of the number of cells used, the number of independent replicates, data representation in the form of merged data, mean \pm SEM or mean \pm SD, statistical tests used and the significance levels. If no significance levels are indicated in tables, it implies ns ($p > 0.05$).

For 2 Hz SPT experiments, survival curves consisting of merged data from multiple cells imaged over ≥ 3 independent replicates were plotted and compared. Owing to the sparse population of bound PARP1 and PARP2 molecules, determination of the mean \pm SEM was not possible for these datasets. As a solution to this problem, we identified merged datasets with the highest number of PARP1 molecules and used their independent replicates to determine mean \pm SEM. This exercise was performed for multiple merged PARP1 datasets, including undamaged, laser damaged and PARPi treated datasets. Only if the percent difference between two experimental groups was greater than the determined percent SEM for that parameter, was it considered to be a statistically significant difference (indicated by #).