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1 Sumo-mediated recruitment allows timely function of the Yen1

- 2 nuclease in mitotic cells
- 3
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21 Abstract

The modification of DNA damage response proteins with Sumo is an important mechanism to 22 23 orchestrate a timely and orderly recruitment of repair factors to damaged sites. After replication 24 stress and double-strand break formation a number of repair factors are Sumoylated and interact 25 with other Sumoylated factors, including the nuclease Yen1. Yen1 plays a critical role to ensure 26 genome stability and unperturbed chromosome segregation by removing covalently linked DNA 27 intermediates that are formed by homologous recombination. Here we show how this important 28 role of Yen1 is dependent on interactions mediated by non-covalent binding to Sumoylated partners. Mutations in the motifs that allow Sumo-mediated recruitment of Yen1 impair its ability 29 30 to resolve DNA intermediates and result in increased genome instability and chromosome mis-31 segregation.

32 Introduction

33

34 The DNA integrity of the genomes is constantly exposed to multiple challenges either from endogenous or exogenous sources of DNA damage. Cells have evolved multiple DNA repair 35 pathways to ensure genome stability, Homologous Recombination (HR) being one of the most 36 37 critical pathways to specifically counter the deleterious DNA double-strand breaks and other 38 problems in the DNA integrity arising during replication. As the HR pathway operates, different 39 DNA substrates and intermediates are formed that physically inter-connect distinct DNA 40 molecules creating a joint-molecule (JM) intermediate. These intermediates are a threat to the 41 successful segregation of chromosomes and are to be dismantled during mitosis by different 42 specialized proteins acting in concert to prevent segregation defects and genome rearrangements. In yeast, the dissolution pathway mediated by the complex of Sgs1-Top3-Rmi1 43 44 (STR) ensures the disentanglement and release of double Holliday Junctions (dHJs) and two 45 other helicases, Mph1 and Srs2, act early on the pathway preferentially over D-loop intermediates 46 to reduce the number of JM intermediates and ensure the completion of the recombinational repair without crossing-over between the involved DNA templates. Opposed to these non-47 48 crossover (NCO) pathways, the nucleolytic processing of these JM intermediates can result in reciprocal crossovers (COs), with the risk of genome rearrangements and loss of heterozygosity 49 50 (LOH) events (1, 2).

51 Given the risk for genome stability of a nucleolytic processing of HR intermediates, the different 52 actors able to cleave these intermediates are strictly controlled and used as an option of last resort in DNA substrates not previously dismantled by the action of helicases (3, 4). Two major 53 54 nucleases are involved in the nucleolytic processing of recombination intermediates in the yeast 55 model, Mus81-Mms4 and Yen1 (5). The Mus81-Mms4 nuclease plays different roles at replication forks, and is gradually hyper-activated by Cdc5- and Cdc28/CDK1-dependent phosphorylation of 56 57 Mms4 to peak its activity in late G2/M (6-8) where it associates with the SIx4-Dpb11 scaffold (9). 58 Its broad substrate recognition enables Mus81-Mms4 to cleave 3'-flap containing DNA substrates 59 and HJs, preferentially when they are still nicked or not completely ligated (10). Its hyper-60 activation in late G2 and its broad substrate specificity positions Mus81-Mms4 in a critical role to 61 cleave both captured D-loop and early HJ intermediates, possibly targeting these intermediates 62 that can't complete full conversion to a dHJ and thus remain inaccessible to processing by the 63 STR complex (3). As mitosis progresses, the Cdc14 phosphatase will trigger the reversal of the 64 inhibitory Cdc28-mediated phosphorylation of Yen1 in turn allowing its nuclear localization and its 65 proper substrate recognition (11, 12). This late activation of Yen1 at the anaphase entry ensures that all remaining recombination intermediates, especially those that escaped dissolution by STR 66 67 or cleavage by Mus81-Mms4, are resolved before mitotic exit (11, 12). To ensure the clearing of

Yen1 nuclease from the nucleus in the subsequent S-phase, and prevent off-targeted activity directed to 5'-flap containing DNA intermediates, Yen1 is additionally controlled by a Sumotargeted degradation mediated by the SIx5-SIx8 ubiquitin ligase, further limiting the potential of crossover formation (13).

72 Protein covalent modification with the small ubiquitin-like modifier (Sumo) (14) is an important 73 mechanism to fine tune DNA-mediated transactions during the DNA damage and repair 74 responses (15-18). In Saccharomyces cerevisiae Sumoylation occurs in a multi-step reaction 75 involving the E1 Aos1-Uba2 activating enzyme dimer, the E2 conjugating enzyme Ubc9, and 76 three possible E3 ligases (Siz1, Siz2 and Mms21), with some redundancy of Siz1 and Siz2 for its 77 substrates (19-21). Several players of the HR pathway, besides the nuclease Yen1, are also found among the Sumoylated DNA repair targets, including Rad52, PCNA, RPA and Sgs1 (17, 78 79 22-26). Sumoylation is able to influence biological processes in different ways. Proteins can be 80 mono-Sumoylated, multi-Sumoylated or poly-Sumoylated, and the modification will re-design the 81 protein surfaces allowing changes in protein activity, or in its way it can interact with other 82 proteins. One of the best-described effects of protein Sumoylation is the enabling of interaction 83 with other protein partners in a bait-to-prey fashion using Sumo as the moiety that is recognized 84 by a specific domain in the partner protein, called a Sumo Interacting Motif (SIM). These motifs 85 are found throughout species and according to its amino acid composition can be classified in 86 several families of consensus sequences (27). Most SIMs can be defined as a core stretch of four 87 amino acids with a majority of hydrophobic residues (typically rich in V/I/L). This hydrophobic core 88 fits into the hydrophobic groove on the Sumo surface and is often flanked by a stretch of 3-4 acidic or polar residues in the SIM sequence that interact with basic residues on the surface of 89 90 Sumo (28-31). SIM types showing the flanking stretch of acidic residues present thus a similar 91 architecture to that of ubiquitin interacting motifs (UIM) that also show a key stretch of polar 92 residues flanking the hydrophobic core (32, 33). SIM motifs are able to interact with mono- or 93 poly-Sumoylated proteins and can be usually present in tandem dispositions, probably helping 94 interact with multiple Sumoylated lysines or with a poly-Sumoylated lysine in the interacting 95 protein (28, 34, 35). Interactions by Sumo-SIM partnerships are extremely labile and can be 96 easily induced and curbed down by altering the Sumoylation status of the involved proteins. This 97 flexibility allows a quick building of protein complexes in response to changing stress conditions in 98 the cell (17, 35). The build up of these protein complexes by Sumo-mediated recruitment via 99 SIMs is generally associated to the actual Sumovlation of the two involved proteins (36, 37). 100 Then, it was thus not surprising to identify in Yen1, which is Sumoylated (13), several putative 101 Sumo interacting motifs. In the present study we define two functional SIMs in the Yen1 Cterminal region that play important roles in the nuclease sub-nuclear localization and its function 102

alleviating the persistence of chromosome-segregation challenging JMs throughout the end ofmitosis.

105

106 Results

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Yen1 contains two functional Sumo-binding motifs (SIM) in the C-terminal region. As 108 109 stressed before, Sumoylated proteins are able to transiently interact with a variable strength to 110 other proteins containing SIMs. These motifs consist in a stretch of amino-acids with a core of 111 aliphatic residues, often flanked by three or more amino-acids with a negative charge or 112 susceptible to become phosphorylated (27). We inspected the Yen1 sequence through available 113 algorithms (27) to detect SIM motifs and we identified several interesting hits in the primary 114 sequence of Yen1 (Figure 1A). To validate the presence of such motifs in Yen1 we performed a 115 two-hybrid analysis with Smt3 as bait and either wild type full-length or truncated versions of 116 Yen1 as a prey (Figure 1B). The ability to interact with Sumo in the two-hybrid assay was only retained by the C-terminal part of Yen1 (amino-acids 354 to 759) and mutations in two putative 117 118 SIMs present in that half of the protein completely abolished the interaction. A mutation in the first 119 SIM, a type r motif (27) with a core at amino-acids 636 to 642 and a flanking stretch of acidic 120 residues was indeed sufficient to almost completely impair the interaction to Smt3 in the two-121 hybrid assay (Figure 1B). Interestingly, this motif is highly conserved across Yen1 in other fungi 122 and is very reminiscent of SIMs found in the SIx5, Rad18 and Elg1 proteins (36, 38, 39) (Figure 123 S1).

124

125 <Figure 1>

126

While mutation on the consensus SIM sites abolishes the interaction in the two-hybrid assay, this 127 128 assay was suggested to reflect a covalent modification of Yen1 (40) and thus the effect detected 129 in this test might be an indirect effect reflecting the loss of direct sumoylation of Yen1 related to 130 the absence of non-covalent interaction of Yen1 to SUMO through its SIMs. Moreover, a possible 131 SIM-mediated interaction would be difficult to be confirmed in this test if polymerization of Smt3 is 132 needed or a Sumo covalent modification of a bridging partner is required for the growth read-out 133 of the test. To better confirm the nature of the interaction lost in our mutants and thus validate the 134 SIM sites, we used a pull-down approach (36). GST-Smt3 was over-expressed and purified from 135 bacteria, and bound to a Glutathione resin. Purified Yen1 or its mutant SIM variants were then 136 allowed to bind to the pre-bound GST-Smt3, and after several washes, the column content was eluted in denaturing conditions and inspected by western blotting (Figure 1C). Yen1 was detected 137 138 in the eluates thus confirming its ability to interact non-covalently to Smt3, but was much less

retained (30% compared to wild-type) when bearing mutations in both of its SIMs, while 139 140 inactivation of only one of the two motifs did not significantly altered retention suggesting that at 141 least in vitro, the presence of one single SIM at the Yen1 C-terminal region confers it ability to bind Smt3 (Figure 1C). While the GST-Smt3 column may indicate the ability of Yen1 to bind to 142 monomers of Smt3 through its SIMs, the packed dispositions of GST-Smt3 in the column can 143 mimick a poly-Sumoylated chain and contact Yen1 simultaneously in multiple SIM sites. To 144 145 further evaluate the non-covalent binding of Yen1 to poly-Smt3 we decided to generate an affinity 146 column containing poly-Sumo chains to test whether they have the ability to non-covalently bind 147 to Yen1 and thus capture the protein. We generated Smt3 chains by adding Aos1-Uba2 and 148 Ubc9 in a reaction with purified 6xHis-Smt3 (13), the resulting poly-Sumo chains were dialyzed 149 and used to bind to a Cobalt HisPur Superflow agarose matrix, the poly-Smt3 coated matrix was used to test retention of Yen1-1xHA (Figure 1D). While the column retained the wild-type Yen1, 150 the recovery of the protein mutated in both SIMs (Yen1^{SIM1-2ΔΔ}) was greatly decreased (Figure 151 1E), thus confirming that Yen1 binds non-covalently to poly-Sumo chains, a binding that depends 152 153 on the presence of the two identified Yen1's SIMs.

154

155 Strains carrying SIM-defective variants of Yen1 display increased sensitivity to DNA 156 damage. We next aimed to understand the effect of the mutations in the SIM motifs on the ability of Yen1 to be normally regulated by Cdk1/Cdc14 and shuttled timely to the nucleus. Given the 157 158 proximity of Yen1's SIMs to its NLS, a C-terminal GFP fusion of the Yen1 mutants was monitored 159 to see if any gross defect occurred for its nuclear shuttling (Figure 2). Both single and double SIM mutants presented nuclear exclusion in S-phase as the wild-type and were nuclear in late mitosis 160 161 and G1 and the relative distribution of GFP intensity detected in the nucleus or in the cytoplasm 162 at the different cell cycle phases was not changed between the different Yen1 variants (Figure 2B, Figure S2). We also analyzed the pattern of cyclic phosphorylation by synchronizing cells in 163 164 G1 and analysing the mobility of Yen1 at different time points after its release (Figure 2C, Figure 165 S2A). All the mutants displayed a normal cycle of phosphorylation in S-phase followed by gradual 166 de-phosphorylation with only slight variations in the total amount of the protein all across cell-167 cycle phases. Next we asked whether the presence of an endogenous copy of the SIM mutants 168 would compromise the ability of Yen1 to back-up for the functions of Mus81-Mms4 (5). The 169 mutants were introduced into a mus81^Δ background and tested for its sensitivity to an array of 170 DNA damaging agents (Figure 2D and E). Cells with a double mutation $mus81\Delta$ yen1 Δ are 171 extremely sensitive to MMS at low doses, and they also present a moderate sensitivity to the 172 radiomimetic drug Zeocin and to the replication stalling drug Hydroxyurea (HU) (13), both a mutation in the first SIM and the double SIM mutant significantly increased the sensitivity of a 173 174 mus81^Δ strain to MMS, while increased sensitivity to MMS after mutation in the second SIM

alone was not significant (Figure 2D, 2E, Table S3). Mutation in both SIMs was necessary to see 175 176 a moderate increase in sensitivity to Zeocin (Figure 2D, 2E). Mutation in both SIMs was also 177 necessary to sensitize cells at 20mM HU and while individual SIM mutants sensitized cells to 40 178 mM HU, at such dose survival was already compromised by a two log difference in cells bearing 179 both SIM mutations or lacking YEN1 (Figure 2E). Yen1 has also been described to be essential in 180 cells with a deletion on the DNA2 helicase-nuclease in the presence of its suppressor pif1∆ (41-44). Similarly, cells carrying the dna2-2 helicase-deficient allele rely on the activity of YEN1 to 181 182 process DNA intermediates in this background (41). Similar to what was already observed in 183 dna2-2 cells in the W303 background (41) we found that a dna2-2 mutation is partially unviable 184 with yen1 Δ (Figure S3). The dna2-2 cells, while viable, present a strong heterogeneity of 185 phenotypes likely associated to spontaneous accumulation of suppressors, as described (41) 186 (Figure S3). Nonetheless, the introduction of the more severe of the SIM alleles, carrying 187 simultaneous mutations in both SIMs, was viable in a dna2-2 background, suggesting a minor 188 role of non-covalent Sumo binding for the Yen1's functions required in a dna2-2 context. In 189 agreement to the observation that $dna2\Delta$ $pif1\Delta$ strains do not significantly accumulate more Sumoylated Yen1 compared to the wild-type strain (13), we found that in a dna2 Δ pif1 Δ 190 191 background the SIM defective allele does not increase the already strong sensitivity of cells to 192 DNA damaging agents like MMS or HU (Figure S3).

193

194 <Figure 2>

195

196 Mutation of the SIMs induces a sumo-less Yen1 phenotype in vivo. In other Sumoylated 197 DNA repair proteins containing functional SIMs, the mutation of these motifs has an impact in the 198 ability of the protein to be directly Sumoylated (36, 37). The results in the two-hybrid experiments suggested such an effect for Yen1 (Figure 1), which we have previously characterized to be 199 200 Sumoylated ina Siz1/Siz2-dependent manner (13). To further confirm the absence of covalent 201 sumoylation after impairment of Yen1's SIMs we compared the Sumoylation levels of the wild-202 type and the SIM-defective Yen1 mutants by performing denaturing pull-downs of His-tagged 203 Smt3 (Figure 3A). Yen1 Sumoylation peaks when cells are exposed to high MMS doses (13) and 204 we reproduced Yen1 Sumoylation in these conditions for the wild-type protein (Figure 3A). 205 Nonetheless, the fraction of Sumoylated Yen1 in the mutant in either the first SIM motif or the 206 double mutant in the two SIM motifs was greatly reduced in conditions with similar input levels to 207 5% and 1% of the wild-type levels respectively (Figure 3A), mutation of SIM2 had a milder effect 208 reducing the recovery of Sumoylated forms to ≈20% of the forms recovered in the wild-type (Figure 3A). The gradual effects detected for individual or combined mutations of both SIMs 209 210 points to a concerted action of both motifs to promote Yen1 Sumovlation by allowing Yen1 noncovalent binding to Smt3. Despite its sensitivity to very low doses of MMS, cells carrying *dna2-2*did not spontaneously increase the yield of Sumoylated forms of Yen1 while we detected in such
conditions under spontaneous damage a minor yield of Sumoylation in the presence of mutations
on both Yen1 SIMs in either a wild-type or a *dna2-2* background (Figure S3).

215

216 <Figure 3>

217

218 The mutations introduced to inactivate the SIM sites do not contain any lysine substitution, and 219 SIM1 is not directly flanked by lysines in the immediate vicinity. To further confirm that the lack of 220 Sumoylation was not due to un-adverted absence or un-accessibility of Sumoylation-target 221 lysines in Yen1, we decided to test the mutant proteins in an *in vitro* Sumoylation reaction. After a 222 reaction of the SIM mutants of Yen1 with Aos1-Uba2 and the conjugating enzyme Ubc9, a normal 223 Sumovlation pattern was detected with the same ladder of bands of increasing sizes for all Yen1 224 variants (Figure 3B). We also performed a complete ligation reaction containing Siz2 as E3, 225 increasing the yield of the reaction. Comparing the ligation reactions over time we couldn't detect 226 significant differences in the amount or timing of accumulation of the Sumoylated forms (Figure 227 3B, Figure S4) that in all the Yen1 variants achieved complete Sumovlation of the substrates at 228 similar time points. We conclude that the presence of the SIM mutations does not preclude 229 modification of any of the Yen1's lysines targeted by the Sumoylation machinery.

230 The c-terminal domain of Yen1 containing the two SIMs is dispensable for a complete nuclease 231 activity (45). Nonetheless, we verified that the mutation of both SIMs does not impair Yen1's 232 nuclease activity in vitro by using a synthetic Holliday Junction (46) as a substrate. Immuno-233 precipitated Yen1 was added to cleavage reactions, and we compared the yield of HJ cutting for either the wild-type Yen1 and the SIM defective mutant Yen1^{SIM1-2\DeltaΔ}. The nuclease activity was 234 235 undistinguishable for both the wild-type and the mutant, that were able to linearize the HJ 236 substrate at similar rates (Figure 3C). Alteration of the SIM motifs at the C-terminal part of the 237 protein seems thus not to alter the cutting efficiency of Yen1, whose nuclease and conserved 238 XPG domains are present at the N-terminal part of the protein (Figure 1A). Nonetheless, the test 239 did not take into account the disposition of the junction in a chromatin context in the cell that could 240 influence the ability to cut HJ in vivo.

241

Localization to spontaneous and induced sites of activity is impaired by inactivation of the Yen1's SIMs. Sumoylation and interaction with SIMs has been proposed as a way to enforce a cascade of interactions to foster recruitment of factors to specific subcellular locations (35). We decided to determine if the impairment of the Yen1 SIMs was altering its ability to cluster in foci that are observed to occur either spontaneously or induced by DNA damage (4, 13). C-terminal

GFP tagged versions of Yen1 were compared for its foci distribution (Figure 4, Figure S5, Table 247 248 S4 and S5), the number of cells showing spontaneous foci in a wild-type strain ranges around 249 10%, while only 3% of the cells in the double SIM mutant displayed foci in strains with a functional Mus81-Mms4 (Figure 4B). The effect was more marked when observing the spontaneous foci in 250 a mus81^Δ strain, where cells displaying foci decreased from 30% to 3-4% in the SIM mutant 251 252 (Figure 4B). These foci were equally decreased in the presence of exogenous damages, 253 suggesting that Yen1 SIMs are equally important to properly localize the protein to spontaneous 254 damaged sites and exogenous damages sites (Figure 4B, Table S6 and S7).

255

256 <Figure 4>

257

Absence of Yen1's SIMs prevent accumulation of the Yen1 fraction targeted by SIx5-SIx8. 258 259 We have demonstrated in a previous work a role for the SIx5-SIx8 Sumo-targeted ubiguitin ligase 260 in the removal of a subset of Yen1 from the nucleus during the transition from G1 to S phase (13). 261 As a result, cells defective in SIx8 show a persistence of Yen1 foci, which are detected in large 262 numbers even in the presence of functional Mus81-Mms4 (13). We wondered if the absence of 263 proper localization in the SIM mutant would prevent Yen1 accumulation in the absence of SIx5-264 SIx8. According to our expectations, a deletion of $s/x8\Delta$ in the strain bearing the mutations in the 265 Yen1's SIMs did not increase the number of Yen1 foci, thus suggesting mis-localization of Yen1 266 in the mutant strain prevents the need for SIx5-SIx8 targeted removal (Figure 5A, Table S8). The 267 persistence of the SIx5-SIx8 targeted Yen1 fraction can also be detected by performing a cycloheximide chase during a synchronous release from G1, and observing the degradation of 268 269 Yen1 under inhibition of *de novo* protein synthesis in this cell-cycle interval (13). In a $s/x8\Delta$ 270 background, the double SIM mutant protein was degraded during such cycloheximide chase 271 faster than the wild-type protein (Figure 5B), indicating that the lack of accumulation of Yen1 at 272 nuclear sites does also dispense for a targeted removal of this subset of the nuclease, that is 273 removed timely even in the absence of Sumo-targeted ubiquitination by SIx5-SIx8.

274

275 <Figure 5>

276

277 Unpaired Sumo-directed localization induces an increase in untimely chromosome 278 segregation. The presence of both $mus81\Delta$ and $yen1\Delta$ deletions makes cells synergistically 279 sensitive to drugs like MMS, as stated before, and also increase their spontaneous number of 280 chromosome mis-segregations monitored either by dedicated genetic systems (5, 47) or by a 281 direct observation of fluorescent-tagged chromosomes during mitotic divisions (13) (Figure 5C). 282 We compared the mitoses of single $mus81\Delta$ cells to that of cells carrying $mus81\Delta$ and the allele 283 with the two mutated SIMs. Similar to what we could observe in a mus81 Δ yen1 Δ control strain, 284 $mus81\Delta$ cells with the mutated Yen1 SIMs displayed an increased number of segregation issues. 285 As it can be observed in the violin plots displaying the time that individual monitored cells spent to 286 fully segregate the fluorescent tag, the Yen1 double SIM mutant does segregate chromosomes in a similar average time than the wild type for those cells completing full segregation (Figure 5D) 287 but about 30% of the cells carrying these Yen1 SIM mutations in the mus81^Δ background were 288 289 unable to resolve its segregation within the time of video-microscopy observation (2 h), and were 290 classified as non-disjunctions (Figure 5D, Table S9). The high number of chromosome mis-291 segregation detected for the Yen1 mutant variant in a mus81^Δ background is in line with that 292 observed in cells completely lacking Yen1 clearly pointing to a faulty function of Yen1 when SIMs are absent. 293

294

295 Mutation in the SIMs of Yen1 reduces the formation of crossing-over after a single DSB. To 296 further browse the implications of the presence of a defective Sumo-interacting Yen1 allele for the 297 actual resolution of recombination intermediates, we decided to analyse the level of crossing-over 298 (CO) formation in two widely used tests that estimate the CO levels after a single DSB formation 299 (3, 5, 48) (Figure 6A and D). In accordance with the increased sensitivity to different DNA 300 damaging agents observed for the Yen1 allele carrying the SIM mutations when combined with a mus81 Δ background (Figure 2), we detected a decreased formation of crossovers in this 301 302 genotype after the induction of a single DSB in a diploid tester strain (5), half-way to the 303 phenotype observed with a double mutant carrying both deletions in $mus81\Delta$ and $yen1\Delta$ (Figure 304 6B and C, Table S10). The decrease in crossover formation was paralleled by an increase in 305 Break-Induced Replication (BIR) events (Figure 6B and C, Table S10). Using an ectopic 306 recombination assay (48) (Figure 6D and E), we detected a decrease in viability after the induction of an HO cut site in chromosome II in the *mus81* Δ yen1^{SIM1-2 $\Delta\Delta$} strain, already signalling 307 a defective crossover resolution resulting in a number of unviable events (Figure 6F). This 308 309 survival decrease probably reflects a BIR increase that in this test leads to lethality by the loss of 310 essential genes in the chromosome II distal arm. The number of crossovers quantified by southern blotting analysis of the survivors showed a nearly 50% reduction in the crossover yields 311 in mus81 yen1^{SIM1-2AA} cells (Figure 6E and F, Table S11), not significantly different from the 312 levels detected in *mus81* Δ yen1 Δ cells. 313

314

315 <Figure 6>

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- 318

319 Discussion

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321 In the present work we aimed to understand whether the Yen1 nuclease depends on interactions 322 with Sumoylated partners to be able to act accurately and promptly on its substrates. We have demonstrated that in addition to being Sumoylated, Yen1 is also able to interact non-covalently to 323 324 Sumoylated chains and Sumo monomers through at least two Sumo-interacting motifs in its C-325 terminal region (Figure 1). Previous reports suggested covalent Sumoylation occurring in the C-326 terminal region of Yen1 was responsible for the Smt3-interaction detected in a two-hybrid assay 327 (40), our results are in agreement with the original observation of a C-terminal motif mediating 328 such Smt3-interaction but we conclude this results are compatible with a non-covalent interaction 329 mediated by the two SIMs, leading to a covalent modification of Yen1. We have demonstrated 330 such non-covalent interaction with dedicated retention assays using either immobilized GST-331 Smt3 or pre-polymerized poly-(6HIS)-Smt3 coupled to a Cobalt HisPur Superflow agarose matrix 332 (Figure 1) in a strategy similar to that used to validate other sumoylated protein's SIMs (36, 49-333 51). Moreover, we further confirmed the nearly complete loss of in vivo Sumo covalent 334 modification in the SIM defective Yen1 using 6His-Smt3 denaturing pull-downs (Figure 3A). Our 335 Yen1 SIM mutant acts thus as an in vivo Sumo-less variant without requiring a large number of 336 Lysine substitutions, which can sometimes result in the protein's destabilization. While direct 337 Yen1 sumoylation depends strongly in the presence of the identified SIM motifs, we conclude 338 those are not required to mediate interaction to the sumovlation machinery per se, as we can 339 observe full sumoylation patterns after an in vitro sumoylation reaction (Figure 3B) and we also 340 detect residual forms of sumoylated Yen1 in our denaturing pull-down assays (Figure 3A) 341 displaying the regular band pattern of in vivo sumoylated Yen1, and not the absence of these 342 forms that is obtained when Siz1 and Siz2 are removed (13). However, we conclude that this direct sumoylation of Yen1 is largely prevented in the cells by a faulty localization via SIMs to 343 344 specific nuclear sites as suggested by the inability of the SIM mutant to accumulate in foci in sub-345 nuclear localizations previously characterized (13) (Figure 4). Accordingly, while the absence of 346 the SIMs in Yen1 has no effect on its catalytic activity (Figure 3C), we have detected a sub-347 optimal function of these mutants in the cells, leading to phenotypes of chromosome mis-348 segregation and DNA damage sensitivity similar to those observed for a null mutant in 349 combination with a deletion of the partially redundant cell's major resolvase activity mediated by 350 the heterodimer Mus81-Mms4 (Figures 2, 4 and 5) (5). The impaired localization not only 351 correlates with a sub-optimal function of Yen1 in response to spontaneous damages under 352 normal growth conditions and exogenous treatments with genotoxic agents, but also decreases the number of crossing-over that can be observed after a single DSB induction in two different 353 354 settings (Figure 6). While inactivation of both SIMs identified in the C-terminal region is necessary

to impair non-covalent binding to Sumo, the mutation we introduced in SIM1 seems to achieve a
stronger phenotype alone than the one in SIM2. Nonetheless, we did not perform an optimized
serial mutation of each motif and thus we can't exclude that both SIM motifs contribute with equal
importance to Sumo binding in the cells.

359

360 Our results are in line with group modification (35) and would suggest a local enrichment of 361 multiple Sumoylated proteins together with free Smt3 and the Sumoylation machinery when 362 persistent recombination intermediates are revealed during anaphase. While Sumoylation has 363 been previously shown to play important roles in the fine-tuning of DNA repair processes, our 364 study highlights the importance of Sumoylation for genome maintenance processes occurring in 365 anaphase, and probably disconnected to previous Sumoylation cascades influencing HR 366 proteins. Several key proteins acting in anaphase, like Condensin subunits and chromosomal 367 passenger complex (CPC) components, have been described to be Sumovlated (20, 52, 53). It is 368 thus of great interest to continue studying Yen1 functional interactions in conditions that are greatly transient an ephemeral, and determine which other factors ensure prompt Yen1 369 370 recruitment to its activity sites during its anaphase activity window, thus influencing the delicate 371 balance between chromosome segregation and genome integrity.

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- 373

374 Materials and Methods

375

376 Yeast Strains and Growth Conditions. S. cerevisiae strains used in this study are derivatives of 377 the W303c background and are listed in Table S1. The Yen1-FX-GFP allele was made by 378 inserting a Factor X site and the GFP epitope from pGAD-Yen1-GFP(54) between amino acids 379 D753 and S754 at the C-terminus of Yen1 using dedicated oligonucleotides and was cloned into 380 TOPO-pYES2 (Invitrogen) to allow controlled expression by Galactose induction, all plasmid 381 derivatives are listed in Table S2. Mutants in the different designated loci where either obtained 382 by crossing or by gene replacement with the indicated selective cassettes. Cells were typically 383 grown in YP (1% yeast extract; 2% peptone) or SC media with alternatively 2% glucose, 2% 384 raffinose or 2% galactose in strains under inducible conditions. A modified medium (SC with 0.17% YNB without ammonium sulfate, 0.1% proline and 0.003% SDS) was used for the Smt3 385 386 pull-down assays.

387

388 **Western Blot analyses.** If not stated otherwise, proteins were extracted by the TCA 389 (Trichloroacetic acid) method. For routine monitoring, samples were loaded into 7.5% Tris-390 Glycine stain-free pre-casted gels (BioRad). Samples from pull-downs analyses were loaded into 391 3-8% gradient NuPAGE Tris-Acetate gels (ThermoFisher). Gels were transferred using a semi-392 dry transfer machine (BioRad) to PVDF membranes and hybridized with the appropriate 393 antibodies in 5% w/v nonfat dry milk, 1X TBST buffer. Antibodies for anti-HA-HRP (3F10, Roche), 394 anti-Smt3 (B. Palancade), anti-Pgk1-HRP (22C5D8, Abcam) were used at the suggested dilutions 395 and revealed using an ECL reagent (Advansta). When required, HRP-conjugated secondary 396 antibodies from Cell Signaling were used at 1/10000 dilution.

397

Microscopy and Cell Biology Methods. Live cell imaging was performed with a Spinning Disk Confocal Microscope (CSU-W1, Yokogawa), with an electron multiplying charge device camera (ANDOR Zyla sCMOS) and a ×60/1.35 numerical aperture objective at 30 °C. Cells were centrifuged and plated as a droplet between an SC agarose pad and a glass slice (55). Images were recorded with 17 z-sections with 0.5 µm spacing for each wavelength at a time. Video recordings were built with images taken every 2 minutes. Metamorph was used for image acquisition, and analysis was performed using Image J-Fiji (56).

405 For Yen1 foci observations, cells were grown in SC medium without uracil (SC-URA 2% raffinose), GFP-Yen1 was induced in a short burst of 30 min with Galactose at 2%, followed by 406 407 addition of Glucose at 2%. For acute exposure to DNA damage, cells were treated with MMS 408 0.01% for 15 min at room temperature and were washed once with fresh SC-URA 2% glucose 409 before continuing the experiment. Aliquots were taken at the indicated times. Cells showing an 410 accumulation of spots were measured at maximum projection of the GFP channel. Statistical 411 significance was determined by the x2 test using contingency tables with the number of cells 412 observed in each different category.

413 For segregation monitoring using strains with the lacO/GFP-LacI array, all cells were recorded for 414 a duration of 2 h minimum in their agarose pads. Individual cells were identified with an ongoing 415 chromosome segregation. To determine segregation duration a start point was determined as the 416 signature S-phase bud was the smallest yet discernable. At this point, only one foci of GFP-417 tagged chromosome fluorescent markers is visible. The cell is followed until the dot separates in 418 two and resides durably in the daughter cells. The ending time point is taken at the last frame of 419 definitive separation of the fluorescent foci. The duration of the movement of the two separate 420 dots was reported for each individual cell under monitoring, cells with dots moving together for the 421 whole duration of the time-lapse were assigned as non-disjunction and their segregation time was 422 not used to establish the average segregation time.

423

424 **Sumoylation assays and Smt3-bound retention assay.** In *ex vivo* Sumoylation assays, the 425 wild-type or mutant Yen1-HA was produced from a pYES2 vector and immuno-precipitated from 426 cell lysates as described (13). Eluates were subjected to Sumo conjugation and ligation as 427 described (57).

428 For Smt3-retention assays, 6x-His-Smt3 was purified from BL21 E.coli cells using a Ni-NTA affinity column (Qiagen) following manufacturer indications. Smt3 protein was eluted with 250 mM 429 imidazole before being dialyzed using a G2 Slide-a-Lyzer cassette (Thermo Fisher) with a 10 kDa 430 cut-off. Purified Smt3 was subjected to a self-conjugation reaction by adding Aos1-Uba2 and 431 432 Ubc9 and ATP as described (57) and the reaction was subjected to a second purification in a 433 Cobalt HisPur Superflow agarose matrix (Thermo Fisher) to generate poly-Smt3 retention 434 column. Equal amounts of Yen1 or its mutant were added to the non eluted matrix containing 435 poly-Smt3 bound in E buffer (20 mM NaH₂PO₄, 300 mM NaCl, 5 mM Imidazole, pH 7.4) and 436 binding was allowed for 60 min at 4°C. Mini-Columns were then centrifuged to remove the buffer 437 and non-retained proteins, washed 5 times in washing buffer (E buffer 12.5 mM Imidazole) and 438 eluted in denaturing conditions with Laemmli buffer at 95°C. The eluates were loaded into 4-15% 439 SDS-PAGE gradient gels and immunoblotted. GST-Smt3 retention assays were performed as 440 described (36) with purified GST-Smt3 obtained by expression of pGEX-4T1-Smt3 into BL21 E.coli cells. Briefly, purified GST-Smt3 was incubated with glutathione matrix during 40 min at 4°C 441 442 in GST buffer (25 mM Tris-HCI (pH8.0), 150mM NaCI, 1mM DTT). Then matrix was washed 443 before to load purified wild-type or mutated Yen1. Mixtures were incubated 3 min at 4°C before to wash the glutathione matrix and elute retained proteins for HA and anti-GST immuno-bolt 444 445 analysis.

446

447 **Cycloheximide chase experiments.** Cycloheximide chase experiments were essentially done 448 as reported (13). Cultures grown in SC complete modified media (0.1% proline 0.017% YNB 449 without ammonium sulfate, 0.0003% SDS) were diluted to OD_{600} =0.2 and synchronized with 450 alpha factor (3 µM) for 2 h. Once synchronized, cells were treated with cycloheximide (250 µg/ml) 451 in fresh media, to inhibit proteins new synthesis, and released from the G1 arrest. Samples were 452 taken at indicated time points and analyzed by TCA extraction and western blotting.

453

Denaturing Histidine pull-downs. For 6xHIS-Smt3 pull-downs, strains containing the expression vectors or the control empty plasmid were grown in SC-LEU modified medium (0.1% proline, 0.017% YNB without ammonium sulfate). Cells were allowed to grow to OD_{600} =0.3 when CuSO₄ was added at 100 µM final concentration in a volume of 100 ml. After 1 h, MMS was added to 0.3% and cells were collected 3 h later. Cells where lysed under denaturing conditions and Sumo-conjugated proteins where isolated and analyzed by western blot using a Nu-PAGE Tris-acetate 3-8% gradient gel, basically as previously described (13). In *dna2-2* strains (LEU2), a 461 plasmid expressing under Galactose induction Flag-6His-Smt3 (URA3) was used instead of the462 Cu-inducible.

463

Synthetic DNA substrates and Yen1 resolvase activity assays. The synthetic HJ-X0 was 464 prepared by annealing the Cy5-X0-1, X0-2, X0-3 and X0-4 oligonucleotides (Sigma-Aldrich) in a 465 buffer containing 50 mM Tris-HCI (pH 7.5), 10 mM MgCl₂, 100 mM NaCI as described (46). The 466 467 annealing product was analyzed in a native PAGE to verify the presence of a HJ structure. To 468 test Yen1 activity, an enzymatic reaction was performed in 10 µl cleavage buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl 469 (pH 7.5), 1 mM MgCl₂, 1 mM DTT) containing 25 nM of Cy5-labled HJ X0 substrate, and equal 470 amounts of immunoprecipitated Yen1 or its SIM-defective mutant. After incubation at 30°C for 1 471 h, the reaction was stopped by adding 2.5 µl of stop buffer (100 mM Tris-HCl (7.5), 50 mM EDTA, 2.5% SDS, 10 mg/ml proteinase K) and further incubated for 30 min at 37°C. Cleavage products 472 473 were migrated in 10% native PAGE, scanned using a Typhoon FLA 9500 Biomolecular Imager 474 and the images were analyzed with ImageQuant (GE Healthcare).

475

476 DSB-induced recombination assays. The diploid recombination assays were performed as 477 described previously (for a detailed protocol see (47)). The reporter diploid strains that contain 2 478 ade2 hetero-alleles were cleaved by induction of I-Scel in its ade2-I allele and allowed to repair 479 with its ade2-n allele under non-selective conditions to give rise to either ADE2 or ade2-n repair 480 products in three types of colonies (red, white and sectored). Each recombinant colony was 481 scored with its two recombination events (for each repaired sister chromatid) and considering the 482 possible segregation patterns in daughter cells. Frequencies of the recombination events were 483 normalized to the galactose vs glucose plating efficiency. The distribution of CO and NCO in the 484 ectopic recombination assay based in chromosomes V and II (48) were addressed by southern blot hybridization of ApaLI-Pvull digested genomic DNA from cell populations growing in YP-485 486 Raffinose after galactose induction of HO. Membranes were hybridized with a URA3 radiolabeled 487 probe and results were normalized relative to the galactose versus glucose plating efficiency of 488 the strains as described (3).

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494

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508

509 Data Availability

510 The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon

511 reasonable request

513 Figure Legends

514

515 Figure 1. Yen1 contains two Sumo Interacting Motifs (SIMs) in its C-terminal domain

516 (A) Diagram showing the conserved domains of Yen1 and the positions of the regulatory Cdk1-517 phosphorylation sites. Amino acid 354 shows the cut-off point for truncated forms of Yen1 in Two-Hybrid assays. The two identified candidate SIMs are shown near the Nuclear localization 518 519 sequence (NLS). (B) A Two-hybrid assay was performed with strains carrying the indicated 520 Activator Domain (AD) and DNA Binding Domain (BD) fusions to test interaction between Yen1 521 and Smt3 (SUMO), and the Yen1 critical domains for such interaction. Mutations D635A D636A 522 D637A for SIM1 Δ and V675A E677A for SIM2 Δ were introduced to test for the putative SIMs. 523 SIM1-2AA is used for the combined mutations. Strains were grown on selective media lacking 524 Leucine and Tryptophan and spotted in selective media also lacking Histidine to reveal interaction 525 of the proteins fused to the AD and BD domains. Non-specific interactions were minimized by the 526 addition of 3-aminotriazole (AT). (C) Purified GST-Smt3 was bound to a Glutathione resin and 527 either purified wild-type or the SIM mutant Yen1 proteins were then loaded to the resin. The 528 retained fractions of Yen1 were eluted after several washes and detected by immuno-blotting. (D) 529 SUMO-retention assay using in vitro generated poly-Smt3 immobilized into a Cobalt HisPur 530 Superflow agarose matrix. Purified Yen1 was added to the pre-bound Smt3 and after a binding-531 time and washing, columns were eluted in denaturing conditions and the eluates inspected by 532 western blot for the presence of Yen1 (anti-HA, left panel) and the pre-bound Smt3 chains (right 533 panel). (E) Immuno-blotting of the inputs and eluates of the retention assay (as in D) comparing the ability of wild-type or SIM-mutant Yen1 to bind poly-Smt3. 534

535

Figure 2. Mutation in Yen1 SIMs has no impact to its CDK1 regulation and nuclear shuttling but sensitizes cells to DNA damage

538 (A) Cells carrying an endogenous histone Hta2-mCherry marker and chromosomally -HA tagged 539 versions of Yen1 wild-type and the different SIM mutants were transformed with a plasmid 540 carrying an equivalent version of Yen1 fused with GFP at its C-terminal region. Cells were grown 541 on selective media and observed using a spinning-disk microscope after a brief induction with 542 galactose. Shuttling of the protein from cytoplasm to the nucleus can be observed in 543 representative fields displaying cells with nuclear excluded Yen1 (S-phase and early G2-M) and nuclear localized Yen1 (anaphase to G1) for the indicated GFP-tagged proteins. (B) 544 545 Quantification of the relative amount of GFP signal detected into the nucleus over the overall 17

signal for the indicated strains in cells classified by their cell-cycle status (C) Strains with a 546 chromosomally inserted copy of -HA tagged wild-type Yen1 or its double SIM mutant (Yen1^{SIM1-} 547 $^{2\Delta\Delta}$) were synchronized with alpha factor and released into fresh medium to monitor the 548 modification of the protein through the cell cycle by immunoblot (left). Both unmodified and 549 550 phosphorylated Yen1 are indicated. Average levels of endogenous Yen1 were normalized with PGK1 protein in triplicate experiments (right). (D) Sensitivity to different DNA damaging agents 551 552 and drugs was determined by spotting serial dilutions of strains carrying different Yen1 mutants in 553 its SIM in a MUS81 deleted background for the indicated media. (E) Survival curves to the agents 554 tested in (C) were established by counting colony forming units of the different strains after plating 555 in YPD containing the indicated doses of drugs in replicate trials. Survival was normalized per trial 556 with its respective control YPD counts and the average % survival is plotted in the graphs (+/-SEM). Significance was estimated by the student T-test at P<0.05 (*) and P<0.01 (**), see Table 557 558 S3. Additional data related to this figure is found in Figure S2.

559

560 Figure 3. Mutation in Yen1's SIMs does not alter its activity or its sumoylation *in vitro* but 561 prevents sumoylation *in vivo*.

(A) Strains carrying endogenous copies of –HA tagged wild type Yen1, Yen1^{SIM1 Δ}, Yen1^{SIM2 Δ} and 562 Yen1^{SIM1-2AA} mutants, with (+) or without (-) the plasmid pCUP-6xHIS-Smt3, were grown in the 563 presence of MMS 0.3%. Cells were lysed and lysates subjected to a denaturing Ni-NTA pull-down 564 followed by immunoblot analysis. Yen1 was detected by anti-HA. Membranes were subsequently 565 probed with anti-Smt3. Prior to Ni-NTA pull-down, input samples were taken from the lysates and 566 567 were analysed by immunoblotting for the levels of Smt3 induction (Anti-Smt3) and relative protein 568 amounts (Anti-PGK1, Anti-HA) of each lysate (input panels). (B) Purified Yen1-HA and Yen1 SIM-569 mutant variants were subjected to an in vitro sumoylation reaction containing Siz2, Aos1-Uba2, 570 Ubc9 and Smt3-3KR and ATP and subjected to Tris-Acetate PAGE for comparison of their 571 sumoylation patterns after immunoblotting with anti-HA. The reaction without the ligase Siz2 is 572 shown at the right of each panel. Quantification of the relative % of sumoylation forms (R.I.) and 573 unmodified forms is shown at the bottom and more in detail in Figure S4 (C) Activity of Immuno-574 precipitated Yen1 was tested in a cleavage reaction using synthetic Holliday Junctions (HJ) made 575 with oligonucleotides and labeled with Cy5. The DNA products were run in non-denaturing PAGE 576 and revealed by the fluorescence of the Cy5 labeled oligonucleotide.

577

579 Figure 4. Mutation in the SIMs of Yen1 prevents foci accumulation in G2/M.

580 (A) Cells with an endogenous copy of Hta2-mCherry and YEN1-HA expressing Yen1-GFP from 581 an inducible vector were observed under a spinning-disk microscope after a brief induction with 582 galactose. The white triangles denote the presence of Yen1-GFP foci. (B) Chromosomally tagged 583 Yen1-HA wild-type and SIM mutant in the indicated genetic backgrounds and carrying its corresponding Yen1-GFP expressing plasmid (blue graphs for WT copy, red for SIM mutant) 584 585 were observed under the microscope after a brief induction. Cells from the indicated conditions 586 were classified according to its cell cycle phase and the presence or absence of Yen1 foci. Violin 587 Plots display the distribution of G2/M cells showing no foci, 1-2 foci or more than 2 foci for each strain. Counting was performed for over 400 distinct G2/M cells for each strain over several 588 589 independent trials. Asterisks represent statistical significance in a χ^2 test p<0.0001 (***), see 590 tables S4, S5, S6 and S7 for details.

591

Figure 5. Mutation in the SIMs of Yen1 prevents foci accumulation in $s/x8\Delta$ cells during G2/M and impacts chromosome segregation in a *mus81* Δ background.

594 (A) Cells containing a deletion on SLX8 were observed for their distribution of foci of the different 595 variants of Yen1-GFP. Violin plots display the distribution of cells and asterisks denote statistical significance in a Chi-square test at P <0.0001 (***), see table S8. (B) Cells from the indicated 596 597 genotypes were arrested in G1 and released in the presence of cycloheximide with samples being taken at the indicated time points. Total protein extracts were inspected by immunoblot for 598 599 the presence of Yen1-HA and their intensity quantified relative to the loading control obtained by stain-free imaging of the gels (BioRad). Relative amounts of Yen1 are plotted in the graph to 600 601 facilitate comparison (+/- SD). (C) Diagram showing chromosome segregation in cells harboring 602 a lacO/GFP-LacI array tag on chromosome VII. To discriminate cells with timely chromosome 603 segregation from those presenting aberrant segregation (delayed segregation or non-disjunction) a 2 h limit of observation was implemented. Two sets of representative actual images of a normal 604 605 segregation pattern and a non-disjunction pattern are shown below the diagram. (D) Over 400 606 cells per strain were individually counted and are represented in violin plots according to the time 607 spent to segregate the lacO/lacl array. The median segregation time is indicated excluding cells 608 with non-disjunctions. Statistical relevance of the differences observed between the number of 609 non-disjunctions of the different strains was determined by the Chi-square test at P<0.0001, see 610 table S9.

Figure 6. Crossover formation is impaired in cells containing the mutant version of Yen1 inactivating both SIMs in a *mus81*∆ background.

614 (A) Diagram showing the chromosome XV based DSB-induced recombination reporter. (B) 615 Recombination outcomes in red-white (ade2/ADE2) sectored colonies of the indicated strains, 616 normalized to their Plating Efficiency (PE) in Galactose compared to Glucose. (C) Recombination 617 outcomes combining the results obtained for all types of colonies (full red, full white and sectored) of the indicated strains, normalized to their Plating Efficiency (PE) in Galactose compared to 618 619 Glucose. Statistical significance for B and C was determined by the Chi-square test at P<0.05, see table S10. (D) Diagram showing the chromosome II-V based ectopic DSB-induced 620 621 recombination reporter and its expected outcomes during physical analysis. (E) Representative southern blot analysis of the indicated strains after genomic DNA digestion with the restriction 622 623 enzymes as highlighted in diagram D and hybridization with a radiolabeled probe against the 624 URA3 locus. (F) Quantification of at least three independent southern blot analyses is plotted 625 relative to PE (Galactose vs Glucose). Statistical significance was determined by the Student T-626 test at P<0.05, see table S11.

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777		





Figure 2



% Unmd: 56 17 4

2

U: 57 23

2 4

U: 40 21 2 1

U: 49 16 4 1







Genetic background



0' 24' 38' 44' 5µm non-disjunction 0' 30' 42' 162' 5 162'

5µm



mus 81Δ background

Figure 5

segregation

В

