Single strand annealing mathematical model for double strand break repair

Reza Taleei1, Michael Weinfeld2 and Hooshang Nikjoo1*

Abstract

Background: In this work we present, for the first time, a mechanistic mathematical model for single strand annealing (SSA) one of the three important double strand breaks (DSB) repair pathway. For this purpose, we predict the rate constants, which have not yet been measured experimentally, for the proteins involved in the repair. To maintain genome stability, DNA DSB are repaired by three main pathways, NHEJ (non-homologous end joining), HR (homologous recombination), and SSA. SSA is a compensating pathway for both HR and NHEJ. The three pathways are distinct in repair efficiency and fidelity. The SSA repair process is non-conservative which may cause genome translocation.

Methods: We employed a biochemical reaction rate model to investigate mechanistically the SSA repair pathway. The model resulted in a set of nonlinear differential equations which were solved numerically.

Results: The constant rates of the biochemical reactions were estimated by comparing the modelling results with chicken cell line (DT40), and mouse embryo fibroblast cell line (MEF) dose-equivalent unreppaired DSB (Deq) data after irradiation with 20 Gy X-rays. The model successfully predicted DSB repair of DT40 cell line irradiated with 80 Gy X-rays. The model was also employed to investigate dose rate effects on repair efficiency.

Conclusions: The model is capable of predicting repair efficiency of deficient cell lines (via mutation in specific enzyme). In the absence of quantitative data we present model predictions for protein reaction rate constants for Rad51 and Ku70 mutated DT40 and MEF cell lines. The present work is part of the development of a complete model of DNA DSB repair, including HR and NHEJ. A comprehensive model of DNA repair is needed in development of new ideas in radiation cancer therapy, and risk assessment in human from exposures to low doses of ionizing radiations.

Background

Ionizing radiation induce a plethora of DNA damage including single strand breaks (SSB), double-strand breaks (DSB), and chemically induced base and strand lesions [1]. DSB is considered to be the critical damage to be repaired. DSB can be divided into two main types of complex, and simple lesions [2,3]. Complex DSB are defined as more than one DSB, or a DSB accompanied with base lesions or SSB within one turn of the helix [3]. The complexity of the DSB lesions has been shown to increases with the LET of radiation [4]. It has been hypothesised that more complex DSBs are more difficult to repair [5]. Alternative to DSB complexity have also been put forward in terms of chromatin unravelling [6]. Error prone or nonconservative repair pathways together with unrepaired DSB may lead to cell death, genomic instability, mutation, or oncogenic transformation [7,8]. There are at least three competitive pathways for the repair of DSB. Non-homologous end joining (NHEJ), the main repair pathway in higher eukaryotes, is an error prone pathway [9,10]. Conservative homologous recombination (HR) [11,12], and nonconservative single strand annealing (SSA) pathway [11,13] are considered as the two remaining pathways of DSB repair. NHEJ simply rejoins the DSB ends directly, while HR requires the intact homologous non-sister chromatid to start the repair. On the other hand SSA utilizes direct repeat sequences for its repair process. Almost half of the human genome consists of repetitive DNA sequences [14], making SSA a potentially competitive pathway for human DNA DSB repair. The main proteins involved in NHEJ and HR repair pathways are distinct. Ku70, Ku80, DNA-dependent protein kinase catalytic subunit (DNA-PKcs), XLF, X-ray repair cross complementing group 4 (XRCC 4) and ligase IV are the main up to date identified proteins involve in NHEJ repair, while Mre11-Rad50-Nbs1 (MRN), Replication Protein A (RPA), Rad51, Rad52, and Rad54 are the main proteins involved in HR. Mutation in the main proteins involved in the HR and NHEJ pathways is assumed to promote SSA repair pathway. Recently a poly (ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP-1) dependent or backup NHEJ pathway has been proposed to be active when DNA-PK dependent NHEJ pathway is mutated [15,16]. The main proteins involved in this pathway are poly (ADP-ribose) polymerase-1 (PARP-1) and ligase III (lig III). Although the backup NHEJ is considered to be cell cycle dependent, the characteristics and functions of the proteins active in the backup NHEJ pathway have not yet been well identified to be considered for mathematical model. In a recent model of HR repair pathway [17] the initial steps starts with resecting the DSB with MRN complex proteins in mammals [18,19]. The processed ssDNA is coated by replication protein A (RPA), Rad51, Rad52, and Rad54 are the main proteins involved in SSA repair. SSA is a potential pathway for human DNA DSB repair, including HR and NHEJ. A comprehensive model of DNA repair is needed in development of new ideas in radiation cancer therapy, and risk assessment in human from exposures to low doses of ionizing radiations.
Recent radiation biology experiments have well contributed to the understanding of the mechanism of DSB repair, however some important details remain unrevealed [15]. Mathematical modelling in biology has played a promising role in predicting the biological mechanisms and further suggesting experiments for the unknown processes. Due to the availability of kinetic data, substantial mathematical models have been proposed for cell cycle kinetic modelling [26,27]. In the recent a number of papers have been published on modelling base excision repair (BER) using kinetic modelling [28,29], modelling of DSB rejoining [30-35], and more specifically a kinetic model of NHEJ [36]. But, there is still lack of mathematical models for other repair pathways, and a comprehensive model of DNA DSB repair. A complete mathematical model of DSB repair requires modelling of each pathway separately, and combining the models taking into account the cell cycle dependent contribution and hierarchy of the repair pathways [37]. In this work, we present a biochemical kinetic model describing a new model for SSA repair pathway. In this model we have predicted the rate constants of the proteins activity in the repair.

**Materials**

Deng and colleagues have published an experimental model for the initial steps of HR repair [17]. Figure 1 presents a schematic diagram of the steps involved in the SSA repair process. The model relies on prominent experimental finding for a complete SSA repair process [20,38,39]. In this section we propose a biochemical kinetic model to describe the DSB repair by SSA pathway.

**Figure. 1** Schematic model of DSB repair processed by HR and SSA repair pathways. After the DSB is induced by radiation, the HR and SSA repair pathways start the repair process with MRN, RPA, Phosphorylated-RPA (P-RPA), and Rad52 proteins (Common starting steps is panel A and panel B). The repair process continues with either panel A) Rad54 mutated cell line, or panel B) Rad51 mutated cell line using Ercc1/Xpf and ligase III proteins.
The mass action law has been used to derive the kinetic equations according to the model illustrated in Figure 1. The nomenclature $Y_i, V_i,$ and $K_i$ stand for the repair complex, repair rate, and repair rate constant for $i = 1$ to 8, respectively. As it is illustrated in Figure 1a there are 8 biochemical repair process on the DSB. The proteins bind to the DSB to form the repair complex. The rate of DSB induction ($\frac{dY_1}{dt}$) is linearly related to the dose rate, with the DSB induction-rate per unit dose constant ($\alpha$).

$$\frac{dY_1}{dt} = \alpha \frac{dD}{dt} - V_1$$

(1)

Where

$$V_1 = K_1 [MRN] Y_i$$

(2)

When double-strand break is induced, MRN complex resects it to form ssDNA tails. The concentrations of the proteins (e.g. MRN) are shown with brackets in the equations. RPA binds very strongly to ssDNA and removes any secondary structure.

$$\frac{dY_2}{dt} = V_1 - V_2$$

(3)

Where $V_2 = K_2 [RPA] Y_2$

(4)

**Figure.** 1 Schematic model of DSB repair processed by HR and SSA repair pathways. After the DSB is induced by radiation, the HR and SSA repair pathways start the repair process with MRN, RPA, Phosphorylated-RPA (P-RPA), and Rad52 proteins (Common starting steps is panel A and panel B). The repair process continues with either panel A) Rad54 mutated cell line, or panel B) Rad51 mutated cell line using Ercc1/Xpf and ligase III proteins.
The binding affinity of RPA to 5' and 3' ssDNA increases when it binds to Rad52, which will consequently inhibit Rad52-mediated DSB repair. On the other hand protein-protein interaction of phosphorylated RPA (P-RPA) and monomeric Rad52 increases the affinity of Rad52 to bind ssDNA and process the DSB repair. Therefore RPA should phosphorylate before Rad52 binds to it.

\[
\frac{dT}{dt} = V_2 - V_3 
\]

Where

\[ V_3 = K_3 Y_3 \]  

(5)

After Rad52 binds to P-RPA, it is able to proceed with the repair process by annealing the strand ends.

\[
\frac{dY_4}{dt} = V_3 - V_4 
\]

Where

\[ V_4 = K_4 [\text{Rad52} \& P - \text{RPA}] Y_4 \]  

(6)

Rad51 plays an important role to mediate a HR pathway and prevent Rad52 to pursue a Rad51-independent SSA repair pathway [37]. As shown in Figure 1, the SSA pathway could successfully anneal the DSB by Rad52 annealing process. Direct repeat sequence is necessary for this approach.

\[
\frac{dY_5}{dt} = V_4 - V_5 - V_6 
\]

Where

\[ V_5 = K_5 [\text{Rad52} \& P - \text{RPA}] Y_5 \]  

(7)

\[ V_6 = K'_5 Y_5 \]  

(8)

As it has been shown that Rad52 has a second order rate activity [40], equation (8') could be proposed instead of equation (8).

\[ V_4 = K_4 [\text{Rad52} \& P - \text{RPA}] Y_4^2 \]  

(9)

In the case of Rad51-mutant cells one can reduce the equations with removing equation (9), while equation 10' replaces equation 10. The model for Rad51-mutant cells is shown in Figure 1B. In this case, Rad51 does not inhibit Rad52 annealing process.

\[ V_5 = K_5 [\text{Rad52} \& P - \text{RPA}] Y_5 \]  

(10)

Ercc1/Xpf endonuclease in vertebrates interacts functionally with Rad52 to remove the 3'-overhangs.

Finally gap filling and ligation will end the SSA repair process. Ligase III is proposed to be the only candidate for this process.

\[
\frac{dY_8}{dt} = V_8 - V_9 
\]

Where

\[ V_8 = K_7 [\text{LigIII}] Y_7 \]  

(11)

The repair process finishes, when all the enzymes successfully precede the sequential repair process. \( K_{d} \) is the rate constant for the ligation of the nick and the end of the repair process.

\[
\frac{dY_9}{dt} = V_9 - V_8 
\]

Where

\[ V_9 = K_d Y_8 \]  

(12)

To simplify the modelling equations we introduce scaling factors similarly to previous works [36]. The scaling factor C which is the sum of repair proteins (E) and repair complex concentrations (Y) is considered to be constant and equal to 3000.

\[ C = E_i + \sum_{i=1}^{E} Y_i = cte \]  

(13)

\[ y_i = \frac{Y_i}{C} \]  

(14)

\[ k_i = CK_i \]  

(15)

\[ c_i = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{E} y_i}{C} \]  

(16)

The following equations are derived considering the scaling factor C and substituting the new parameters in the complete set of the kinetic equations of the SSA model.

\[
\frac{dy_1}{dt} = \frac{\alpha D}{C} - V_1 
\]

(17)
\[
\frac{dy_2}{dt} = v_1 - v_2 
\]  
(23)

\[
\frac{dy_3}{dt} = v_2 - v_3 
\]  
(24)

\[
\frac{dy_4}{dt} = v_3 - v_4 
\]  
(25)

\[
\frac{dy_5}{dt} = v_4 - v_5 - v_6 
\]  
(26)

\[
\frac{dy_7}{dt} = v_7 - v_8
\]  
(27)

\[
\frac{dy_8}{dt} = v_8 - v_9
\]  
(28)

\[
\frac{dy_6}{dt} = v_5 - v_7
\]  
(29)

Where

\[
v_1 = k_1 (1 - c_2) y_1 
\]  
(30)

\[
v_2 = k_2 (1 - c_3) y_2 
\]  
(31)

\[
v_3 = K_3 y_3 
\]  
(32)

\[
v_4 = k_4 (1 - c_3) y_4 
\]  
(33)

\[
v_5 = k_5 (1 - c_6) y_5 
\]  
(34)

\[
v_6 = K'_5 y_5 
\]  
(35)

\[
v_7 = k_6 (1 - c_7) y_6 
\]  
(36)

\[
v_8 = k_7 (1 - c_8) y_7 
\]  
(37)

\[
v_9 = K_{dc} y_8
\]  
(38)

If the cells are mutated in \textit{Rad51} instead of \textit{Rad54}, equations (39) to (41) replace the equations (26) to (29). The first (22) to (25) equations remain the same, as the beginning of the repair process is independent of \textit{Rad51} or \textit{Rad54} mutation (Figure 1 panel B).

\[
\frac{dy_5}{dt} = v_4 - v_5
\]  
(39)

\[
\frac{dy_6}{dt} = v_5 - v_6
\]  
(40)

\[
\frac{dy_7}{dt} = v_6 - v_7
\]  
(41)

Where

\[
v_4 = k_4 (1 - c_3) y_4 
\]  
(42)

\[
v_5 = k_5 (1 - c_6) y_5 
\]  
(43)

\[
v_6 = k_6 (1 - c_7) y_6 
\]  
(44)

\[
v_7 = K_{dc} y_7 
\]  
(45)

**Results and Discussion**

The kinetic model developed in this work consists of eight nonlinear ordinary differential equations. The complete set of equations is proposed for \textit{Ku70} and \textit{Rad54}-mutated chicken B cell line (DT40) and mouse embryo fibroblast cell line (MEF). \textit{Ku70} and \textit{Rad54} mutation makes SSA annealing the prevalent repair mechanism. \textit{Ligase IV, Ku70} and \textit{Rad51} mutation is an alternative way to make SSA the prevalent mechanism [37]. In this case the number of equations will indeed reduce to seven, since \textit{Rad51} doesn't inhibit the \textit{Rad52}-mediated annealing pathway. There is lack of experimental data in the literature for SSA pathway with \textit{Rad51} mutated cell lines, because the \textit{Rad51}-mutant cell lines are lethal [41]. The first estimate of the rate constants listed in Table 1 were made by considering published data such as fast action of RPA on ssDNA, the increased efficiency of \textit{Rad52} for SSA when combined to P-RPA [42], and finally fast resection action of \textit{MRN} even in G1 cell cycle phase [39], even though homologous repair is not so active. The final rate estimation involves carefully examining the effect of changing each rate constant on the repair complex kinetics, and considering the fact that sum of the scaled complexes \(y_1\) to \(y_8\) is equal to the unrepaired DSB for each time (X-value). Therefore, the rate constants values listed in Table 1 were determined by comparing model results with experimental data for DT40 and MEF cells, irradiated with 20 Gy of X-ray dose. The rate constants were then verified by comparing the model solutions with the experimental data for DT40 and MEF cells for higher and lower doses of 10 Gy and 80 Gy. Currently, there are no experimental data to validate the predicted rate constants.

| Rate constants | DT40 cells | MEF cells |
|----------------|------------|-----------|
| \(k_1\) (h\(^{-1}\)) | 40 | 45 |
| \(k_2\) (h\(^{-1}\)) | 15 | 15 |
| \(K_3\) (h\(^{-1}\)) | 5 | 15 |
| \(k_4\) (h\(^{-1}\)) | 5 | 10 |
| \(k_5\) (h\(^{-1}\)) | 100 | 50 |
| \(K'_5\) (h\(^{-1}\)) | 40 | 40 |
| \(k_6\) (h\(^{-1}\)) | 0.5 | 4 |
| \(K_{dc}\) (h\(^{-1}\)) | 0.08 | 0.5 |
| \(K_{dc}\) (h\(^{-1}\)) | 0.5 | 0.15 |

Table. 1 Chicken B (DT40) and mouse embryo fibroblast (MEF) cell lines rate constants.
Figure 2 illustrates the comparison of SSA kinetic model with experimental data for DT40 [43] and MEF cell lines [44] irradiated with 20 Gy. FAR (Fraction of Activity released) or Deq (dose equivalent unrepaired DSB or the respective radiation dose without repair) are determined experimentally by pulse-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) after incubation. PFGE uses electric field to separate DNA fragments that makes it possible to measure the fraction of total DNA release. FAR is associated with relatively large fragment sizes, which makes the method sensitive to relatively large doses (>10 Gy). In order to convert FAR to Deq, dose response curves are used.

For total dose of less than 20 Gy the dose response curve is almost linear. The Deq or FAR that are the measure of remaining (not repaired) DSBs were considered for comparing the modelling and experimental results. Therefore, Sum of the scaled repair complexes y1 to y8 (mathematically presenting unrepaired DSB) are equivalent to the FAR expressed in Deq. The modelling and experimental Deq results show fast and slow repair fractions which are in agreement with the studies indicating SSA partly compensates for both HR and NHEJ pathways, when the cells are mutated in Rad54, and Ku70 or ligase IV [37,45-47]. It is noticeable that MEF repairs DSB more efficiently comparing to DT40. The repairing results consist of fast and slow repair components. The fast fraction of repair in MEF cell lines is shorter and more effective. The characteristics of the repair fractions of both cell lines will be discussed in more detail.

In order to benchmark the rate constants listed in Table 1, the experimental result of MEF and DT40 cell lines irradiated with X-ray dose of 10 Gy and 80 Gy respectively have been considered. The SSA model result is in accordance with the experimental data illustrated in Figure 3. Second order kinetic rate constant for Rad52 doesn’t make a noticeable difference in the model results for both 80 and 10 Gy X-rays (results not shown). After eight hours about 45% of the DSBs are repaired for both 80 and 20 Gy X-rays for DT40 cell line. The repair in MEF cell line is more efficient, about 70% of the DSBs are repaired for both 20 and 10 Gy after 8 hours. The fast fraction of repair is about 0.6 h and 1 h for DT40 and MEF cell lines, respectively. About 30% and 45% of the DSB are repaired in the fast fraction of repair in DT40 and MEF cell lines respectively.

For calculating fast and slow components of DSB rejoining, two-exponential approximation equations representing the slow and fast components of the repair curve \( \text{Deq} \) or FAR = \( Ae^{-bt} + Ce^{-dt} \) were used [48]. The half-times and fractions of slow and fast components of repair are given by \( t_{50, \text{slow}} = \ln2/d \), \( t_{50, \text{fast}} = \ln2/b \), \( F_{\text{slow}} = C/(A+C) \), and \( F_{\text{fast}} = A/(A+C) \), respectively. The parameters \( A, C, b, \) and \( d \) were derived from the two-exponential fit to both experimental and model results. The half time of fast and slow repair for 10, 20 and 80 Gy exposures for both cell lines are listed in Table 2. The fast and slow half time of the SSA calculations are in agreement with the experimental results for DT40 and MEF cell lines.
Table 3 provides the fraction of fast and slow repair for 10, 20, and 80 Gy doses calculated with the two exponential approximations for both cell lines. The SSA model calculations show similar fractions of fast and slow repair to experimental results of DT40 and MEF cell lines. The fast fraction of repair is less than the slow fraction for both cell lines for all doses. The slow fraction of repair is about 72.5% and 55% for DT40 and MEF cell lines, respectively, showing more involvement of the fast fraction of MEF cell line on the repair of damage.

Figure 4 illustrates FAR for DT40 and MEF cell lines irradiated with 600, 60, 6, and 0.6 Gy/h dose rates versus the accumulated dose. The initial number of DSBs increases linearly with dose. The repair effect tends to decrease the number of DSBs, and consequently the FAR which is the measure of the non-repaired DSB. The high dose rate effect is clearly noticeable in both cell lines. Repair efficiency decreases with increase of dose rate. DT40 cell line shows less repair efficiency comparing to MEF cell line. There is almost no difference between the initial damage induced and two dose rates 600, and 60 Gy/h for DT40. In contrast MEF cell line irradiated with 60 Gy/h dose rate shows more repair efficiency at cumulative doses higher than 40 Gy as seen in Figure 4 panel B. The results is reasonable as MEF cell line show more fast fraction of repair and more efficiency of repair in comparison with DT40 cell line.

The repair efficiency of SSA pathway could rise, if the cells were mutated in Rad51 instead of Rad54. This approach reduces the equations to seven as explained in material and methods. Table 4 lists the rate constants used for the DT40 cells mutated in Ku70 and Rad51. The first three reaction rates which represent MRN, RPA, and Rad52 processes are not changed as the repair process is the same for both Rad51 and Rad54 mutated cells.

Table 2: Comparison of the half time of the slow and fast components of the repair process results from SSA model calculations with MEF [41] and DT40 [40] cells irradiated with 10, 20, and 80 Gy X-rays.

| MEF Cell Line | DT40 Cell Line |
|---------------|----------------|
| Half Time (h) for 20 Gy | Half Time (h) for 10 Gy | Half Time (h) for 20 Gy | Half Time (h) for 80 Gy |
| Kinetic Model | Wu et al. | Kinetic Model | Wu et al. | Kinetic Model | Wang et al. | Kinetic Model | Wang et al. |
| Fast | 0.19 | 0.13 | 0.17 | 0.24 | 0.33 | 0.54 | 0.35 | 0.22 |
| Slow | 8.41 | 8.48 | 7.65 | 7.93 | 19.3 | 18.8 | 19.4 | 18.4 |

Table 3: Comparison of the repair fraction of the slow and fast components of the repair process results from SSA model calculations with MEF [41] and DT40 [40] cells irradiated with 10, 20, and 80 Gy X-rays.

| MEF Cell Line | DT40 Cell Line |
|---------------|----------------|
| Repair Fraction (%) for 20 Gy | Repair Fraction (%) for 80 Gy | Repair Fraction (%) for 20 Gy | Repair Fraction (%) for 80 Gy |
| Kinetic Model | Wu et al. | Kinetic Model | Wu et al. | Kinetic Model | Wang et al. | Kinetic Model | Wang et al. |
| Fast | 46 | 41.9 | 45 | 46.5 | 28.2 | 21.5 | 28.8 | 24 |
| Slow | 54 | 58.1 | 55 | 53.5 | 71.8 | 78.5 | 71.2 | 67 |

Figure 4: Fraction of activity released for 600, 60, 6, 0.6 Gy/h dose rates, plotted against the cumulative dose for panel A) DT40 (chicken B) and panel B) MEF (mouse embryo fibroblast).
Figure 5 provides the SSA kinetic model prediction for *Ku70* and *Rad51* mutated cell. There are no experimental data available to benchmark the results. As foreseen, the model predicts an efficient activity for SSA pathway for DT40 cell line especially in the late repair part compensating more for HR *Rad51*-dependent pathway. The efficiency of the repair increases from about 40% to about 70% after 8 hours.

Conclusions
We have developed a new SSA kinetic rate model to investigate the repair efficiency of this pathway. The model is based on experimental deductions on the mechanism of DSB repair which we expressed them as a set of nonlinear equations using the mass action law. In order to be able to numerically solve the equations, we have predicted the rate constants of the proteins involved in DSB repair in the absence of quantitative experimental data. In the absence of human data, the model was benchmarked with chicken B (DT40) and mouse embryo fibroblast (MEF) cell lines irradiated with doses ranging from 10Gy to 80Gy. The available experimental methods to investigate the kinetics of DSB repair such as γ-H2AX foci kinetics are not a tempo-spatial sensitive method to be used for benchmarking the repair models. Similarly, pulsed-field-gel-electrophoresis (PFGE) is not also suitable as the method is insensitive to low dose irradiation. The limitations in experimental methods have impeded the development of accurate mechanistic models for DNA repair. Another problem emerging from experimental data is that the targeted protein is not always fully mutated. While in modelling we assume fully mutated gene. However, mathematical methods for DSB repair could overcome some of the experimental limitations, such as low dose problems and quantification of the rate constants. The repair models can be applied to test the efficiency of repair of DSBs in simulated damage using Monte Carlo track structure methods. In order to be able to investigate the SSA model we have studied the HR and NHEJ repair mutated cells. We pose two questions to examine the validity of the model: a) is SSA the main repair pathway for DSB when repair factors like *Rad54* and *Ku70* are mutated? and b) how accurate can we predict the rate constants? In answer to the first question, there are two possible hypotheses. The first scenario is that SSA can partly compensate for deficient HR and NHEJ repair pathways, while in the second scenario we argue that backup NHEJ is a competitive repair pathway. Our work confirms the first scenario could potentially be the main repair pathway to repair the DSB in the absence of NHEJ and HR. However, the second scenario could still be valid, because one of the main proteins active in the backup NHEJ (ligase III) is involved in the SSA model. This means the backup NHEJ and SSA repair pathways cooperate to repair the DSB in the absence of NHEJ and HR. The model has the scope to be improved by considering the complete backup NHEJ pathway when all proteins involved in repair are identified. In the second question, we asked how accurate can we predict the rate constants? Currently, there are no protein rate constants available in the literature. The reaction rates listed in Tables 1 and 4 were estimated for the repair action of enzymes for MEF and DT40 cell lines. The reaction rates were confirmed with 10Gy and 80Gy X-ray doses for both cell lines. In addition, the model is capable of predicting repair efficiency of *Rad51* deficient cell lines. The SSA model presented in this work is part of a comprehensive DSB repair model being developed. The complete model requires incorporating the other important repair pathways (NHEJ and HR), and factors such as mutual activation, inhibition of enzymes, and cell cycle.

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Competing interests
The Authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Table 4 Chicken B (DT40) *Rad51* and *Ku70*-mutated cell lines reaction rates.

| Rate constants | DT40 cells |
|----------------|------------|
| k1 (h⁻¹)       | 40         |
| k2 (h⁻¹)       | 15         |
| K3 (h⁻¹)       | 5          |
| k4 (h⁻¹)       | 100        |
| k5 (h⁻¹)       | 30         |
| k6 (h⁻¹)       | 0.2        |
| Kdc (h⁻¹)      | 0.7        |

Figure 5 Dose equivalent unrepaired (Deq) DSB for *Rad51* and *Ku70* mutated DT40 (chicken B) cells irradiated with 80 Gy X-rays.
Author's information

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Taleei et al.

2Cross Cancer Institute, 11560 University Avenue, Edmonton AB T6G 1Z2, Canada.

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