DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY & STEM CELLS

Analysis of single nucleotide variants in CRISPR-Cas9 edited zebrafish embryos shows no evidence of off-target inflation

Marie R Mooney¹, Erica E Davis¹, and Nicholas Katsanis^{1*}

Affiliations

¹Center for Human Disease Modeling and Department of Cell Biology, Duke University, Durham, NC 27710, USA

*Corresponding author: Nicholas Katsanis, nicholas.katsanis@duke.edu

Keywords: CRISPR-Cas9, zebrafish, exome, de novo mutation

Running title

No CRISPR-Cas9 off-target variants in zebrafish

Abstract

1

12

2 Therapeutic applications of CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing have spurred innovation in Cas9 enzyme engineering and single guide RNA (sqRNA) design algorithms to minimize potential off-3 4 target events. While recent work in rodents outlines favorable conditions for specific editing and 5 uses a trio design to control for the contribution of natural genome variation, the potential for 6 CRISPR-Cas9 to induce de novo mutations in vivo remains a topic of interest. In zebrafish, we 7 performed whole exome sequencing (WES) on two generations of offspring derived from the same founding pair: 54 exomes from control and CRISPR-Cas9 edited embryos in the first 8 9 generation (F0), and 16 exomes from the progeny of inbred F0 pairs in the second generation 10 (F1). We did not observe an increase in the number of transmissible variants in edited individuals in F1, nor in F0 edited mosaic individuals, arguing that in vivo editing does not 11

precipitate an inflation of deleterious point mutations.

Introduction

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing technology has offered powerful investigative tools and opened new potential avenues for the treatment of genetic disorders. Nonetheless, like preceding technologies, the clinical implementation of CRISPR-Cas9 editing faces potential barriers. These include restricted control over the delivery and activity of the system; immune responses to the system components; and permanent alteration of unintended genomic targets (Ho et al., 2018). In cell culture systems, the alteration of off-target regions decreases precipitously with the use of stringently designed sgRNA sequences and Cas9 enzymes engineered for high specificity (Doench et al., 2016; Fu et al., 2013; Hu et al., 2018), though recent work demonstrates that precise control over the nature of editing even at on-target sites remains challenging (Kosicki et al., 2018). In rodents, these same factors influence the efficiency and specificity of CRISPR-Cas9 editing (Anderson et al., 2018). However, examination of atypical CRISPR-Cas9 influence on organisms remains limited; it is often focused primarily on predicted off-target assessment and is not always agnostic (Varshney et al., 2015). Here, we evaluated the incidence and transmission of off-target effects in a cohort of CRISPR-Cas9 edited zebrafish embryos derived from the same founding pair. Using 52 zebrafish embryos from the same clutch targeted with sgRNAs with variable on-target efficiency, we whole-exome sequenced DNA from the entire cohort and their genetic parents and we measured the transmission of variants to the next generation.

Results

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

Generating and sequencing CRISPR-Cas9-edited F0 and F1 individuals We focused on three different genes (anIn, kmt2d, and smchd1) for which (a) we have substantial experience in this model organism and (b) which give reproducible, quantitative defects in kidney morphogenesis (Hall et al., 2018), mandibular and neuronal development (Tsai et al., 2018), and craniofacial morphogenesis (Shaw et al., 2017). For each locus, we used sgRNAs that had the following three characteristics. First, for each of the three genes, we selected an sqRNA with demonstrated high efficiency (100%) and an sqRNA with low efficiency (~30%), as determined by heteroduplex analysis and Sanger sequencing of cloned PCR products (Hall et al., 2018; Shaw et al., 2017; Tsai et al., 2018) (Suppl. Figure 1). Second, we mandated that all sqRNAs have a high specificity score (MIT specificity score 79-99 for each sgRNA; Suppl. Table S1). Finally, we required that each sgRNA was predicted to generate offtarget effects with low cutting frequency determination (CFD) scores (mean = 0.17, range = 0-0.73; Suppl. Figure 2). Next, we co-injected each sgRNA and Cas9 protein into wild-type zebrafish embryos from the same clutch at the 1-cell stage. For each sgRNA, we harvested DNA from six edited individuals to serve as technical replicates. In addition, we collected DNA from two individuals for each of the following conditions: uninjected, sgRNA alone, or Cas9 alone (Figure 1A). Finally, to assess the potential transmission of *de novo* variants to the next generation, we raised the F0 cohort for the smchd1 high efficiency sgRNA and intercrossed adults to obtain the F1 generation. In total, we performed whole exome sequencing (WES) on two parents, 52 F0 individuals and 16 F1 individuals (Figure 1A). WES resulted in 76x average target coverage in F0 samples and 115x average target coverage in F1 individuals (Figure 1B, C). The F0 sequencing data covered 83% of the exome at ≥30x and 65% at ≥50x. The F1 sequencing data covered 88% of the exome at \geq 30x and 78% of the exome at \geq 50x.

De novo mutation counts are not inflated in F1 exomes

59

60

61

62

63

64

65

66

67

68

69

70

71

72

73

74

75

76

77

78

79

80

81

82

83

84

Low-level mosaicism remains challenging to detect in WES data and it is prone to high false-positive and false-negative rates (Sandmann et al., 2017). For this reason, we first focused on transmitted events. If CRISPR-Cas9 editing does induce off-target *de novo* mutations, we should observe an increase above baseline in the number of heterozygous variants fixed in the CRISPR-edited F1 generation that were absent from the grandparents.

Given the estimated 0.01% gene level baseline mutation rate in zebrafish(Mullins et al., 1994), we expect approximately 2-3 exonic changes per generation. To measure the observed rates, we applied a trio sequencing workflow aligned with GATK best practices and we called both single nucleotide variants and indels with two established variant callers: VarScan2 or Mutect2 (Figure 1D). Starting with all calls, we performed multiple data filtering steps. First, we removed variants present in either of the grandparental exomes. Second, since a small number of variants might have appeared de novo because of missing data from either grandparent, we also excluded alleles reported in the zebrafish ensembl dbSNP database. Third, we removed variants from the on-target genome locations (Suppl. Figure 3). Together, these three filters removed 79% of the MuTect2 and 99% of the VarScan2 calls. As an additional data filtering step, we removed repetitive elements, regions of potential segmental duplication in zebrafish, and indel variants containing homo-, dinucleotide, and trinucleotide repeats. This step improved the transition-transversion ratio from 0.91 to 1.09 which approaches a previously reported ratio of 1.2 for zebrafish (Stickney et al., 2002) (Suppl. Figure 4). Finally, we removed cross-noise variants found in two or more samples that likely represent systematic technical error or uncalled low-level mosaics from the grandparents.

Using this dataset (Suppl. Table S2), we then applied a filter for allele frequency (AF) above 0.3 to capture the fixed heterozygous variants and we compared the variant count differences between F1 embryos derived from edited and unedited F0 adults. VarScan2 reports candidate variant counts closer to the expected natural accumulation of *de novo* mutations in F1

than MuTect2 (average 20 vs 66, respectively; Suppl. Table S3). We calculated the critical p-value threshold Bonferroni correction for three groups (p<0.012), and neither calling method reports a significant difference between progeny of edited and control adults (p>0.11; Wilcox rank test, Suppl. Table S4).

85

86

87

88

89

90

91

92

93

94

95

96

97

98

99

100

101

102

103

104

105

106

107

108

Next, we focused on the VarScan2 results. Based on the >5-fold inflation of observed versus expected variant calls across the cohort (mean of 20 vs 2-3, respectively; Figure 2A) we hypothesized that these agnostically filtered calls still included false positives. Therefore, we reviewed the variant calls in the Integrative Genomics Viewer (IGV). We found two sources of false positives. First, a subset of read alignments filled into small deletions observed in the grandparents rather than extend a gap (83% of calls). Second, local realignments involving small deletions misalign in the progeny, even though an alternative placement of the deletion results in a grandparental genotype (10% of calls). Of the remaining calls, half were deemed unlikely to be bona fide variants for other reasons. These included complex regions with many error prone reads; abundance of mis-mapped read pairs; and remaining low level mosaicism in grandparents. The other half were unambiguous de novo heterozygous variants (Figure 2B). Notably, most of the unambiguous variants were also called by MuTect2 (10 of 11; Figure 2C). For this population of alleles, we observed no difference between control and edited groups called by both callers (Suppl. Table S5). Crucially, we confirmed all of the variants detected by both callers in F1 animals derived from CRISPR/Cas edited individuals by Sanger sequencing. Taken together, we found that, regardless of whether we consider agnostic or manually reviewed variant numbers, there is no predilection toward inflated variant counts in F1 offspring derived from edited versus control groups. Further, the observed number of de novo variants in F1s does not exceed the expected rate of 2-3 per exome, per generation.

110

111

112

113

114

115

116

117

118

119

120

121

122

123

124

125

126

127

128

129

130

131

132

133

134

De novo mutation counts are not inflated across the multigenerational cohort We then returned to the F0 cohort to investigate whether variant burden outside of the targeted locus differed among individuals injected with sgRNA in the presence or absence of Cas9. Importantly, the expected allelic series of variants are reported robustly at the on-target locations of the sgRNAs against two of the target genes, anln on chromosome 19 and kmt2d on chromosome 23 (Supplementary Figure 3A) (Hall et al., 2018; Tsai et al., 2018). No on-target variants are observed for the smchd1 locus because our exome capture did not include baits for this locus in the Zv9 assembly of the zebrafish genome. However, we demonstrated experimentally the on-target CRISPR-editing capability of the two smchd1 sgRNAs and the transmission of on-target variants produced by the high-efficiency sqRNA to the F1 generation via Sanger sequencing (Supplementary Figure 3B), as described (Shaw et al., 2017). We first considered the agnostic off-target VarScan2 variants called in the mosaic F0 generation (Suppl. Table S6). Initially, we applied the same arbitrary 0.3 AF threshold that we used with the F1 calls, reasoning that editing occurs at the one-to-two cell stage and would likely manifest as an off-target inflation at high allele frequencies. We determined the Bonferroni correction threshold for four groups (p<0.012), and again, we did not observe a significant inflation in de novo variant counts between control and F0 edited groups, in either the algorithmically predicted counts or the manually reviewed counts (p>0.15; Wilcox rank test; Figure 2A, B; Table S7). We then repeated the analysis on the agnostic MuTect2 call set, and consistent with the filtered VarScan2 data, we did not observe an inflation in de novo mutation counts between control and edited groups (p>0.04; Suppl. Table S7), Finally, because a 0.3 AF may fail to detect inefficient targeting events or lower mosaicism levels, we tested lower cutoff frequencies. At either an arbitrary 0.1 AF threshold, or without applying a threshold, we still observe no significant differences (p>0.08; Suppl. Table S7). For the VarScan2 dataset generated from F0 exomes, the variant count exceeded the expected 2-3 de novo changes per exome in at least one individual in half of the edited

conditions (Figure 2A). To exclude the possibility that these could be false positive calls, similar to what we observed in the F1 cohort, we inspected all variants exceeding the 0.3 AF cutoff using IGV. We found that this dataset also was subject to similar technical artifacts as observed for F1s; exclusion of these variants brought the *de novo* mutation call number within the expected range (Figure 2B). Using the same Bonferroni correction for four groups (p<0.012), we were unable to detect a difference between control versus edited groups (p>0.38; Suppl. Table S8). Since we had observed that variants detected by both callers represented an unbiased way to assess high confidence calls in F1, we also asked whether we could detect a difference in variant counts in this subset of calls in F0 (7 of 8 unambiguous calls; Figure 2C). Again, we observed no significant differences between controls and edited groups (p>0.78; Suppl. Table S9).

De novo mutations are not observed at predicted off-target sites

To examine the potential incidence of off-target mutations more sensitively, we removed the filters on the variant calls and searched predicted off target sites across our multigenerational cohort using three algorithms: the MIT CRISPR design site, the CRISPR-direct engine, and CAS-OFFinder, for any variants occurring within 100 bp flanking a predicted off-target site. Consistent with previous reports (Hruscha et al., 2013; Varshney et al., 2015), we found no support for single nucleotide variants or small indels occurring at predicted off-target locations in the F1 generation, and sporadic low allele frequency calls near predicted off-target regions in F0s. The number of reported variants in the F0 samples are not significantly different than expected by chance (p>0.08; Supplementary Table S10).

We reviewed the 15 reported variant calls near predicted off-target sites in F0s, and found that none are supported by both variant callers (Supplementary Table S11). Seven are also reported in siblings subjected to editing with alternative guides or control conditions, making them unlikely to be induced by Cas9-mediated genome editing. Another four were not

supported by reads on both strands. Of the four remaining variants, one was only reported in a control condition, making it unlikely to be a result of editing. The other three occur at a 5% alternate allele frequency, near the limit of detection for the variant callers, increasing the likelihood that they may be artifacts. We do note that one variant has features consistent with an expected off-target cut. This is a small deletion reported directly at a predicted off-target cut site detected by two prediction engines (Supplementary Table S10). Notably, this small deletion occurs in an exonic region, has a high CFD risk score (CFD score = 0.52), and is observed at the predicted locus in a few reads from the VarScan2 call set as well, even though it is not called by that algorithm. Together, our analysis of reported variants near predicted off-target sites detects one potential off-target variant at low allele frequency in a single individual and does not demonstrate an inflated or transmissible mutation burden conjoint with expected ontarget deletions.

Discussion

Trio sequencing designs enable off-target analyses to distinguish gene editing effects from natural and inherited genetic variation. In our study, the bulk of variant calls in zebrafish exomes are filtered out due to their existence in the parental strain. Our ability to recover transmissible on-target deletions and Sanger-validated *de novo* mutations outside of predicted off-target regions and in quantities indistinguishable from natural variation suggests that off-target CRISPR events occur infrequently.

Our results are consistent with previous results in zebrafish demonstrating limited off-target activity at select predicted regions (Hruscha et al., 2013; Varshney et al., 2015) and with recent work in mice that found limited support for off-target effects genome-wide (Iyer et al., 2018). However, we are limited to detecting potential off-target variation within the exon-capture space of the genome. We did not assess large structural variants or long deletions at the ontarget site. In addition, we occasionally observed trends toward variant inflation in the predicted

variant call sets that were related to sequencing depth and did not survive visual inspection.

This observation suggests that even with trio designs and other precautionary measures, care should be exercised in interpreting variant predictions agnostically and that sequencing even more individuals per condition may be required to expose subtle differences in off-target effects.

In response to initial reports that CRISPR-Cas9 edited mammalian cells harbored off-target variants (Fu et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2015), many iterative improvements in technology and experimental design have outlined conditions for achieving CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing while limiting off-target events. Our experimental and sgRNA design incorporated such advancements (high on-target MIT ranking, low off-target CFD scores, high cutting efficiency, and short Cas9 exposure), minimizing the chance of inducing off-target events. However, unexpected nuances of the CRISPR-Cas9 editing system continue to emerge. Varied biological responses to CRISPR-Cas9, such as DNA damage repair (Haapaniemi et al., 2018), enzymatic immunity (Crudele and Chamberlain, 2018), and alternative templating (Ma et al., 2017) exemplify our still nascent understanding of DNA and RNA editing. Furthermore, natural human genetic variation has been shown to influence both the efficaciousness of on-target editing and the frequency of off-target editing (Lessard et al., 2017). Under these circumstances, use of emergent computational, laboratory, and animal modeling tools and unbiased genome-wide off-target assessments will facilitate the foundational knowledge required to reduce unnecessary risk in practice.

Methods

CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing in zebrafish embryos

We used CHOPCHOP (Labun et al., 2016) to identify sgRNAs targeting a sequence within the coding regions of the target genes and sgRNAs were *in vitro* transcribed using the GeneArt precision gRNA synthesis kit (Thermo Fisher, Waltham, MA) according to the manufacturer's instructions. See Supplemental Figure S1, Table S1, and references (Hall et al., 2018; Shaw et

214

215

216

217

218

219

220

221

222

223

224

225

226

227

228

229

230

231

232

233

234

235

236

237

al., 2017; Tsai et al., 2018) for details on targeting sequences/locations and sgRNA efficiency. Zebrafish embryos from a single clutch from a natural mating of a ZDR background founder pair were either uninjected or injected into the cell at the 1-cell stage with a 1 nl cocktail of 100 pg/nl sgRNA, 200 pg/nl Cas9 protein (PNA Bio, Newbury Park, CA), or a combination of both reagents. We extracted genomic DNA (gDNA) from tail clips of parental zebrafish or whole zebrafish embryos at 4 dpf. Sample Selection for Sequencing The ZDR strain in our laboratory gives consistently robust clutch sizes of ~100 embryos. To preserve enough individuals to generate an F1 generation, we anticipated that we would have approximately 50 individuals available for exome sequencing. Using the CFD score cut-off of 0.2 as a threshold for the likelihood of inducing transmissible off-target mutations, we expected that we would need at least 5-6 embryos per condition to observe one of these events. Thus, we selected six independent embryos per qRNA plus Cas9 condition for comparison with controls while maintaining the experiment within a single clutch to control for inherited variation. Heteroduplex Editing Efficiency by PAGE For each sgRNA plus Cas9 condition we PCR-amplified gDNA from 12 embryos per batch using site-specific primers and screened for heteroduplex formation as described (Zhu et al., 2014). Five samples with evidence of heteroduplex formation were gel purified alongside a control sample, 'A' overhangs were added to the PCR products, and the products were cloned into a TOPO4 vector (Thermo Fisher). We picked 12 colonies per embryo to estimate targeting efficiency by Sanger sequencing. Whole Exome Sequencing

239

240

241

242

243

244

245

246

247

248

249

250

251

252

253

254

255

256

257

258

259

260

261

262

We used the manufacturer protocol for the Agilent SureSelect Capture kit for non-human exomes with 200 ng gDNA per individual (75 Mb capture designed on the zv9 version of the zebrafish genome; Agilent SSXT Zebrafish All Exon kit; Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA). Samples were multiplexed and run across two lanes of the Illumina HiSeq 4000 as paired-end 150 bp reads. Sequence data were demultiplexed and Fastq files were generated using Bcl2Fastg conversion software (Illumina, San Diego, CA). Variant Calling Seguencing reads were processed using the TrimGalore toolkit (Krueger, 2017) which employs Cutadapt to trim low quality bases and Illumina sequencing adapters from the 3' end of the reads. Only reads that were 20 nt or longer after trimming were kept for further analysis. Using the BWA (v. 0.7.15) MEM algorithm (Li, 2013), reads were mapped to the Zv9 version of the zebrafish genome. Picard tools (*Picard*, 2017) (v. 2.14.1) were used to remove PCR duplicates and to calculate sequencing metrics. The Genome Analysis Toolkit(McKenna et al., 2010) (GATK, v. 3.8-0) MuTect2 caller was used to call variants between each experimental condition and the adult male and adult female samples separately. Independently, aligned reads were locally realigned with the GATK IndelRealigner and then processed with Samtools mpileup(Li, 2011) for variant calling with VarScan2 trio (Koboldt et al., 2013). VarScan2 variant call sets were generated with the minimum coverage specified at 30x. Variant analysis We used BEDOPS (Neph et al., 2012) and Bedtools (Quinlan and Hall, 2010) intersect, window, and merge commands to exclude variants with support in either parent, variants reported to occur in wild-type zebrafish strains ensembl dbSNP version 79, variants in repeat regions or regions of predicted segmental duplication in the genome (Khaja et al., 2006), variants reported

in both control individuals and CRISPR-edited individuals, and variants reported at the on-target locations for CRISPR-editing. The potential for variants to occur due to off-target CRISPR-mediated editing was assessed by comparing variant counts between groups with either a Wilcoxon rank test for two groups, or a Kruskal-Wallis rank test for more than two groups and assessing the p-value against a Bonferroni critical value to correct for multiple testing. In addition, variants from samples were compared with locations of predicted off-target regions (formatted into a .bed file) from three algorithms: CRISPOR (Concordet and Haeussler, 2018), the CRISPRdirect engine with 12-mer to 20-mer hits, or Cas9-OFFinder allowing 3-mismatches and 1-bulge in either DNA or RNA. Hypergeometric p-values calculated with the Rothstein lab hypergeometric calculator, use the capture space (74691693 bp) as the population size, and a reasonable high vs low sequencing error rate for our Illumina platform (.24% vs .1%) (Pfeiffer et al., 2018) to calculate the expected number of population variants called by chance at a position covered at the F0 average read depth (4 or more errant reads at the position; AF >.05).

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to I-Chun Tsai, Maria Kousi, Zachary Kupchinsky and Igor Pediaditakis for technical assistance. This work was supported by a fellowship from U.S. National Institutes of Health Grant 5T32HG008955-02 (M.M.). We thank Nicolas Devos (Duke Sequencing and Genomic Technologies Shared Resource) and David Corcoran (Duke Genomic Analysis and Bioinformatics Shared Resource) for sequencing and informatics support, respectively. Some analyses were carried out using resources from the Duke Compute Cluster. N.K. is a Distinguished Jean and George Brumley Professor.

Conflict of interest

N.K. is a paid consultant for and holds significant stock of Rescindo Therapeutics, Inc. The other authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

290

291

292

293

294

295

296

297

298

299

300

301

302

303

304

305

306

307

308

309

310

311

References Anderson KR, Haeussler M, Watanabe C, Janakiraman V, Lund J, Modrusan Z, Stinson J, Bei Q, Buechler A, Yu C, Thamminana SR, Tam L, Sowick M-A, Alcantar T, O'Neil N, Li J, Ta L, Lima L, Roose-Girma M, Rairdan X, Durinck S, Warming S. 2018. CRISPR off-target analysis in genetically engineered rats and mice. Nat Methods 15:512-514. doi:10.1038/s41592-018-0011-5 Concordet J-P, Haeussler M. 2018. CRISPOR: intuitive guide selection for CRISPR/Cas9 genome editing experiments and screens. *Nucleic Acids Res* **46**:W242–W245. doi:10.1093/nar/gky354 Crudele JM, Chamberlain JS. 2018. Cas9 immunity creates challenges for CRISPR gene editing therapies. *Nat Commun* **9**:3497. doi:10.1038/s41467-018-05843-9 Doench JG, Fusi N, Sullender M, Hegde M, Vaimberg EW, Donovan KF, Smith I, Tothova Z, Wilen C, Orchard R, Virgin HW, Listgarten J, Root DE. 2016. Optimized sgRNA design to maximize activity and minimize off-target effects of CRISPR-Cas9. Nat Biotechnol **34**:184–191. doi:10.1038/nbt.3437 Fu Y, Foden JA, Khayter C, Maeder ML, Reyon D, Joung JK, Sander JD. 2013. High-frequency off-target mutagenesis induced by CRISPR-Cas nucleases in human cells. Nat Biotechnol **31**:822–826. doi:10.1038/nbt.2623 Haapaniemi E, Botla S, Persson J, Schmierer B, Taipale J. 2018. CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing induces a p53-mediated DNA damage response. Nat Med 24:927–930. doi:10.1038/s41591-018-0049-z Hall G, Lane BM, Khan K, Pediaditakis I, Xiao J, Wu G, Wang L, Kovalik ME, Chryst-Stangl

M, Davis EE, Spurney RF, Gbadegesin RA. 2018. The Human FSGS-Causing ANLN

312 R431C Mutation Induces Dysregulated PI3K/AKT/mTOR/Rac1 Signaling in Podocytes. J Am Soc Nephrol 29:2110–2122. doi:10.1681/ASN.2017121338 313 Ho BX, Loh SJH, Chan WK, Soh BS. 2018. In Vivo Genome Editing as a Therapeutic 314 Approach. Int J Mol Sci 19:2721. doi:10.3390/ijms19092721 315 Hruscha A, Krawitz P, Rechenberg A, Heinrich V, Hecht J, Haass C, Schmid B. 2013. Efficient 316 CRISPR/Cas9 genome editing with low off-target effects in zebrafish. Dev Camb Engl 317 **140**:4982–4987. doi:10.1242/dev.099085 318 Hu JH, Miller SM, Geurts MH, Tang W, Chen L, Sun N, Zeina CM, Gao X, Rees HA, Lin Z, 319 320 Liu DR. 2018. Evolved Cas9 variants with broad PAM compatibility and high DNA specificity. *Nature* **556**:57–63. doi:10.1038/nature26155 321 Iyer V, Boroviak K, Thomas M, Doe B, Riva L, Ryder E, Adams DJ. 2018. No unexpected 322 CRISPR-Cas9 off-target activity revealed by trio sequencing of gene-edited mice. PLOS 323 Genet 14:e1007503. doi:10.1371/journal.pgen.1007503 324 Khaja R, MacDonald JR, Zhang J, Scherer SW. 2006. Methods for identifying and mapping 325 326 recent segmental and gene duplications in eukaryotic genomes. Methods Mol Biol Clifton NJ 338:9-20. doi:10.1385/1-59745-097-9:9 327 328 Koboldt DC, Larson DE, Wilson RK. 2013. Using VarScan 2 for Germline Variant Calling and Somatic Mutation Detection. Curr Protoc Bioinforma Ed Board Andreas Baxevanis Al 329 44:15.4.1-15.4.17. doi:10.1002/0471250953.bi1504s44 330 331 Kosicki M, Tomberg K, Bradley A. 2018. Repair of double-strand breaks induced by CRISPR-Cas9 leads to large deletions and complex rearrangements. *Nat Biotechnol* **36**:765–771. 332 333 doi:10.1038/nbt.4192 334 Krueger F. 2017. Trim Galore! Babraham Bioinformatics.

336

337

338

339

340

341

342

343

344

345

346

347

348

349

350

351

352

353

354

355

Labun K, Montague TG, Gagnon JA, Thyme SB, Valen E. 2016. CHOPCHOP v2: a web tool for the next generation of CRISPR genome engineering. *Nucleic Acids Res* **44**:W272–W276. doi:10.1093/nar/gkw398 Lessard S, Francioli L, Alfoldi J, Tardif J-C, Ellinor PT, MacArthur DG, Lettre G, Orkin SH, Canver MC. 2017. Human genetic variation alters CRISPR-Cas9 on- and off-targeting specificity at therapeutically implicated loci. Proc Natl Acad Sci 114:E11257–E11266. doi:10.1073/pnas.1714640114 Li H. 2013. Aligning sequence reads, clone sequences and assembly contigs with BWA-MEM. ArXiv13033997 Q-Bio. Li H. 2011. A statistical framework for SNP calling, mutation discovery, association mapping and population genetical parameter estimation from sequencing data. Bioinforma Oxf Engl 27:2987–2993. doi:10.1093/bioinformatics/btr509 Ma H, Marti-Gutierrez N, Park S-W, Wu J, Lee Y, Suzuki K, Koski A, Ji D, Hayama T, Ahmed R, Darby H, Van Dyken C, Li Y, Kang E, Park A-R, Kim D, Kim S-T, Gong J, Gu Y, Xu X, Battaglia D, Krieg SA, Lee DM, Wu DH, Wolf DP, Heitner SB, Belmonte JCI, Amato P, Kim J-S, Kaul S, Mitalipov S. 2017. Correction of a pathogenic gene mutation in human embryos. *Nature* **548**:413–419. doi:10.1038/nature23305 McKenna A, Hanna M, Banks E, Sivachenko A, Cibulskis K, Kernytsky A, Garimella K, Altshuler D, Gabriel S, Daly M, DePristo MA. 2010. The Genome Analysis Toolkit: A MapReduce framework for analyzing next-generation DNA sequencing data. Genome Res 20:1297–1303. doi:10.1101/gr.107524.110

357

358

359

360

361

362

363

364

365

366

367

368

369

370

371

372

373

374

375

376

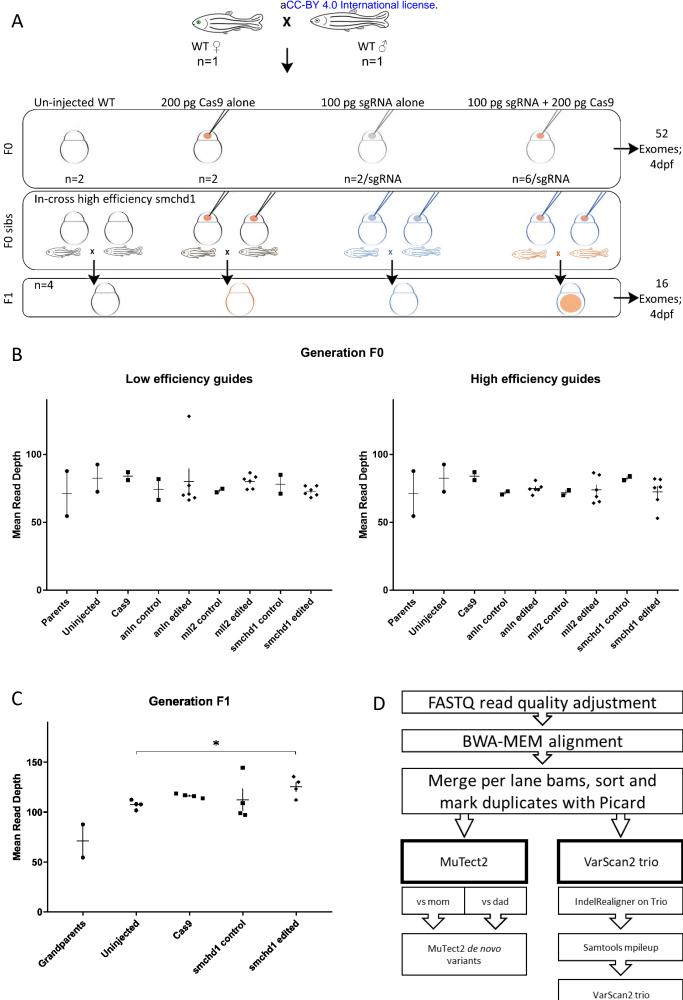
377

378

Mullins MC, Hammerschmidt M, Haffter P, Nüsslein-Volhard C. 1994. Large-scale mutagenesis in the zebrafish: in search of genes controlling development in a vertebrate. Curr Biol 4:189–202. doi:10.1016/S0960-9822(00)00048-8 Neph S, Kuehn MS, Reynolds AP, Haugen E, Thurman RE, Johnson AK, Rynes E, Maurano MT, Vierstra J, Thomas S, Sandstrom R, Humbert R, Stamatoyannopoulos JA. 2012. BEDOPS: high-performance genomic feature operations. *Bioinformatics* **28**:1919–1920. doi:10.1093/bioinformatics/bts277 Pfeiffer F, Gröber C, Blank M, Händler K, Beyer M, Schultze JL, Mayer G. 2018. Systematic evaluation of error rates and causes in short samples in next-generation sequencing. Sci Rep 8:10950. doi:10.1038/s41598-018-29325-6 Picard. 2017. Broad Institute. Quinlan AR, Hall IM. 2010. BEDTools: a flexible suite of utilities for comparing genomic features. Bioinformatics 26:841–842. doi:10.1093/bioinformatics/btq033 Sandmann S, de Graaf AO, Karimi M, van der Reijden BA, Hellström-Lindberg E, Jansen JH, Dugas M. 2017. Evaluating Variant Calling Tools for Non-Matched Next-Generation Sequencing Data. Sci Rep 7:43169. doi:10.1038/srep43169 Shaw ND, Brand H, Kupchinsky ZA, Bengani H, Plummer L, Jones TI, Erdin S, Williamson KA, Rainger J, Stortchevoi A, Samocha K, Currall BB, Dunican DS, Collins RL, Willer JR, Lek A, Lek M, Nassan M, Pereira S, Kammin T, Lucente D, Silva A, Seabra CM, Chiang C, An Y, Ansari M, Rainger JK, Joss S, Smith JC, Lippincott MF, Singh SS, Patel N, Jing JW, Law JR, Ferraro N, Verloes A, Rauch A, Steindl K, Zweier M, Scheer I, Sato D, Okamoto N, Jacobsen C, Tryggestad J, Chernausek S, Schimmenti LA, Brasseur B, Cesaretti C, García-Ortiz JE, Buitrago TP, Silva OP, Hoffman JD,

379 Mühlbauer W, Ruprecht KW, Loeys BL, Shino M, Kaindl AM, Cho C-H, Morton CC, 380 Meehan RR, Heyningen V van, Liao EC, Balasubramanian R, Hall JE, Seminara SB, Macarthur D, Moore SA, Yoshiura K, Gusella JF, Marsh JA, Jr JMG, Lin AE, Katsanis 381 382 N, Jones PL, Jr WFC, Davis EE, FitzPatrick DR, Talkowski ME. 2017. SMCHD1 mutations associated with a rare muscular dystrophy can also cause isolated arhinia and 383 Bosma arhinia microphthalmia syndrome. Nat Genet 49:238–248. doi:10.1038/ng.3743 384 Stickney HL, Schmutz J, Woods IG, Holtzer CC, Dickson MC, Kelly PD, Myers RM, Talbot 385 WS. 2002. Rapid Mapping of Zebrafish Mutations With SNPs and Oligonucleotide 386 387 Microarrays. Genome Res 12:1929–1934. doi:10.1101/gr.777302 Tsai I-C, McKnight K, McKinstry SU, Maynard AT, Tan PL, Golzio C, White CT, Price DJ, 388 Davis EE, Amrine-Madsen H, Katsanis N. 2018. Small molecule inhibition of 389 RAS/MAPK signaling ameliorates developmental pathologies of Kabuki Syndrome. Sci 390 Rep 8:10779. doi:10.1038/s41598-018-28709-y 391 Varshney GK, Pei W, LaFave MC, Idol J, Xu L, Gallardo V, Carrington B, Bishop K, Jones M, 392 393 Li M, Harper U, Huang SC, Prakash A, Chen W, Sood R, Ledin J, Burgess SM. 2015. High-throughput gene targeting and phenotyping in zebrafish using CRISPR/Cas9. 394 395 Genome Res 25:1030–1042. doi:10.1101/gr.186379.114 Zhang X-H, Tee LY, Wang X-G, Huang Q-S, Yang S-H. 2015. Off-target Effects in 396 CRISPR/Cas9-mediated Genome Engineering. Mol Ther - Nucleic Acids 4:e264. 397 doi:10.1038/mtna.2015.37 398 Zhu X, Xu Y, Yu S, Lu L, Ding M, Cheng J, Song G, Gao X, Yao L, Fan D, Meng S, Zhang X, 399 Hu S, Tian Y. 2014. An Efficient Genotyping Method for Genome-modified Animals and 400

Human Cells Generated with CRISPR/Cas9 System. Sci Rep 4:6420.
 doi:10.1038/srep06420
 403
 404



de novo variants

Figure 1. Whole exome sequencing in two generations of CRISPR-Cas9 edited zebrafish.

(A) The experimental design generates a single clutch of embryos from a founder pair of parents from the ZDR laboratory strain of wild-type zebrafish. A total of 52 embryos were selected for DNA extraction and sequencing at 4 dpf in the F0 generation (2 uninjected, 2 Cas9 injected, 2 sgRNA injected across 6 different sgRNAs targeting 3 genes for a total of 12 embryos, and 6 CRISPR-Cas9 embryos per sgRNA guide for a total of 36 edited individuals). Additional embryos for each condition were injected concurrently, but raised to adulthood. The *smchd1* high efficiency guide F0 in-cross generated F1 progeny for further sequencing (4 uninjected, 4 Cas9 injected, 4 sgRNA injected, and 4 CRISPR-Cas9 injected embryos were selected for a total of 16 F1 exomes). (B) The first round of exome sequencing (F0 and parents) generated a consistent read depth averaging 76x coverage. (C) The second round of exome sequencing (F1) generated a consistently higher read depth averaging 115x coverage. The *smchd1* edited individuals are also sequenced to a higher depth than the uninjected controls (p<.05). (D) After sequencing quality control and alignment, variant calling was performed with both somatic and germline callers to identify candidate *de novo* mutations.

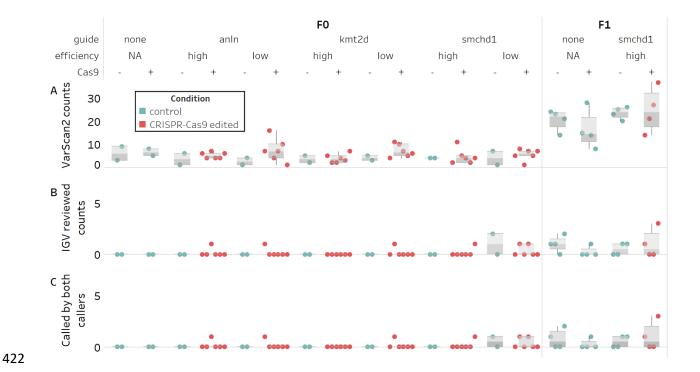
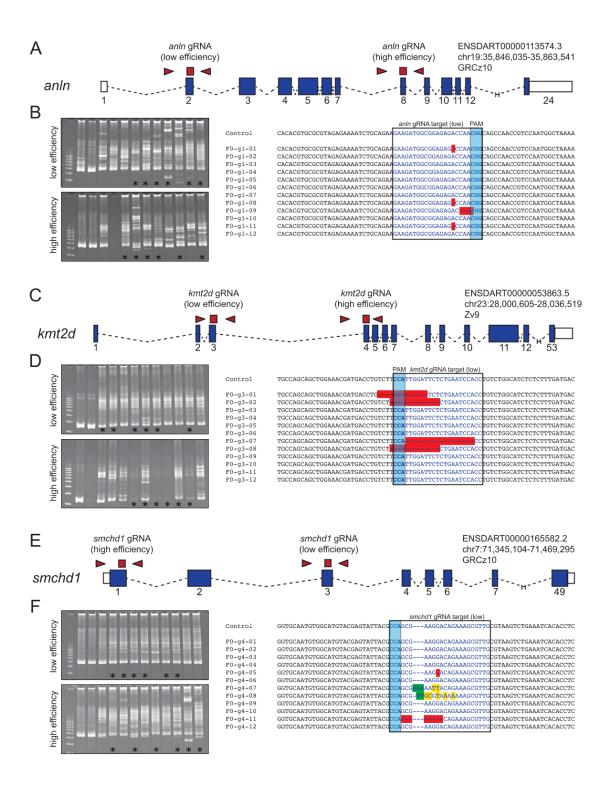


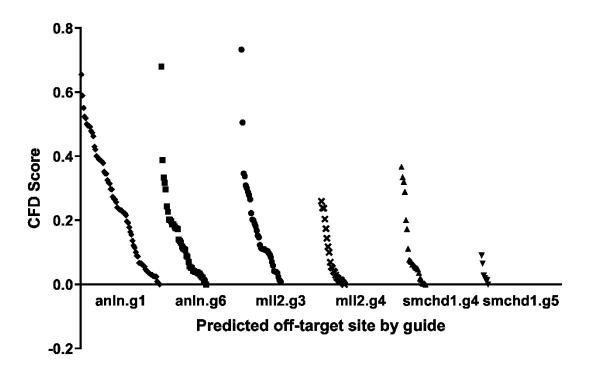
Figure 2. Counts of candidate *de novo* mutations in control and edited individual zebrafish embryos. Variants persisting after filtering and with an allele frequency ≥0.3 are not significantly different between control and CRISPR-Cas9 edited groups (N=68). (A) Predicted counts by VarScan2. (B) Unambiguous heterozygous variants determined by visual inspection of VarScan2 calls in IGV (C) Subset of predicted variants detected by both variants callers.

Figure S1



Confirmation of CRISPR editing efficiencies. Efficiency data for the high efficiency guides have been published previously. (A, C, E) Schematic of the *D. rerio* locus, sgRNA targeted regions (red squares) and primers used to determine sgRNA efficiency (red triangles) for each gene of interest. (B, D, F) Heteroduplex analysis (left) and Sanger sequencing of 12 clones amplified from a single representative embryo injected with the low efficiency sgRNA plus Cas9 for each target gene (right). Efficiency was estimated by taking the average number of targeted clones across five embryos per sgRNA. * denotes samples from the heteroduplex analysis choosen for sequencing; PAM, protospacer adjacent motif.

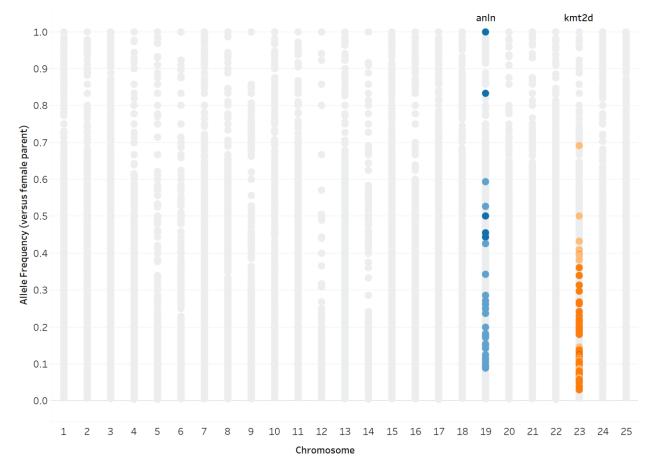
Figure S2



CFD score distribution of MIT-predicted off-target sequences by sgRNA.

Figure S3

Α

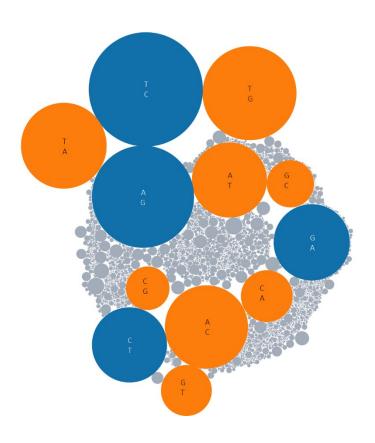


В



On-target germline CRISPR-Cas9 editing transmitted to F1. (A) Grey circles represent all variants calls. On-target allelic series at the *anln* locus (blue) and *kmt2d* locus (orange). (B) Sequencing at the on-target *smchd1* locus in F1s originating from F0s injected with high-efficiency sgRNA plus Cas9.

Figure S4



Transversions

Transitions		55,178
	60,191	29,319

Transition-Transversion ratio in F1 exomes compared to grandparental exomes. Sizes of circles represent the number of observations for each variant class: transitions (blue), transversions (orange), indels (grey). After filtering, the transition-transversion ratio is 1.09.

Table S1: sgRNA gene targets, efficiencies, and quality scores

Gene	sgRNA number	Efficiency (%)	Targeted genomic sequence	Genomic location	MIT quality score
anIn	g1	Low (32)	GAAGATGGCGGAGAGACCAA CGG	chr19:36997110- 36997132	89
	g6	High (100)	GAAGGCTTATTATCATGCAG TGG	chr19:36992519- 36992541	84
kmt2d	g3	Low (30)	GGTGGATTCAGAGAATCCAA TGG	chr23:28003803- 28003825	79
	g4	High (100)	GGGTGAGGTGCTGATAAACG TGG	chr23:28007878- 28007900	91
smchd1	g4	Low (31)	CAACGCTTTCTGTCCTTCGC TGG	chr7:75276576- 75276598	97
	g5	High (100)	GAGATGTCGAAAGTCCGCGG TGG	chr7:75274461- 75274483	99

Table S2: Variant counts during filtering in F1 individuals

		MuTect2			VarScan2	
Sample	originally reported*	exclude grand- parent & dbSNP	passing filters + AF ≥ 0.3	originally reported	exclude grand- parent & dbSNP	passing filters + AF ≥ 0.3
smchd1-S1	107784	16467	93	721082	4836	23
smchd1-S2	91320.5	14343	65	720522	5444	14
smchd1-S3	93910	14820	75	722006	5175	23
smchd1-S4	98067	16162	77	721454	4983	19
smchd1-Cas9-S5	99133.5	15695	70	722267	5152	28
smchd1-Cas9-S6	98879	18379	47	722224	5048	13
smchd1-Cas9-S7	90394.5	16366	79	722826	5074	15
smchd1-Cas9-S8	102871.5	15899	48	722018	4847	8
smchd1-g5-S9	111667.5	22892	82	721814	5790	25
smchd1-g5-S10	93602.5	13941	51	718963	5279	19
smchd1-g5-S11	102256.5	12190	86	718274	4909	23
smchd1-g5-S12	100041	14611	73	718720	5157	25
smchd1-g5-Cas9-S13	96334.5	18489	52	721700	5327	21
smchd1-g5-Cas9-S14	91999	18250	63	720369	5059	27
smchd1-g5-Cas9-S15	98719	18893	46	720855	5252	13
smchd1-g5-Cas9-S16	97144.5	17803	70	720601	5114	34

^{*}Reported count is an average of the counts called against the female grandparent and the counts called against the male grandparent.

Table S3: Average count of candidate de novo mutations by generation and calling method

				MuT	ect2	VarS	can2
sgRNA	Efficiency	Cas9	Condition	F0	F1	F0	F1
none		absent	control	41	76	6	19
		present	control	24	60	6	16
smchd1	high	absent	control	21	72	4	23
		present	edited	26	55	4	23
	low	absent	control	27		3	
		present	edited	22		5	
anIn	high	absent	control	19		3	
		present	edited	29		5	
	low	absent	control	13		2	
		present	edited	33		7	
kmt2d	high	absent	control	23		3	
		present	edited	27		3	
	low	absent	control	22		4	
		present	edited	39		7	
Average				26	66	4	20

Table S4: Wilcox comparison p-values in F1

Sample	MuTect2	Varscan2
Sample	wiu i ectz	vaiScaliz
Control vs edited	0.11	0.47
Cas9 present vs absent	0.03	0.71
Guide present vs absent	0.64	0.15

Table S5: Wilcox comparison p-values on variants called by both callers in F1

Sample	AF ≥ 0.3
Control vs edited	0.78
Cas9 present vs absent	0.57
Guide present vs absent	
High vs none	1.0

Table S6: Variant counts during filtering in F0 individuals

	MuTect2			≥30x VarScan2		
Sample	originally reported*	exclude parent & dbSNP	passing filters + AF ≥ 0.3	originally reported	exclude parent & dbSNP	passing filters + AF ≥ 0.3
uninjected-3	98730	18231	19	714178	4281	3
uninjected-5	153632.5	38063	63	724678	6727	9
Cas9-4	133284	25688	25	719479	4405	8
Cas9-5	133735	25761	24	713112	4663	5
anln-g1-1	117437.5	16151	12	706727	4899	1
anin-g1-3	140097	28430	15	720890	5970	4
anln-g1-Cas9-10	125951.5	19246	26	706488	4593	1
anIn-g1-Cas9-4	109913	21248	23	712796	4419	4
anln-g1-Cas9-5	125363.5	27518	23	717865	5235	7
anln-g1-Cas9-6	152948.5	43391	84	726997	7228	16
anln-g1-Cas9-7	123259.5	19800	25	711674	4780	10
anln-g1-Cas9-9	113957.5	16139	19	704081	4497	6
anin-g6-3	122569.5	26063	17	712519	4386	1
anln-g6-4	131988.5	22096	21	710221	4236	6
anln-g6-Cas9-10	139893.5	30275	21	718040	5273	6
anln-g6-Cas9-3	116501	26021	36	713070	4956	6
anln-g6-Cas9-4	123799.5	26379	48	717711	5671	4
anln-g6-Cas9-5	132917.5	25629	28	715359	5025	4
anln-g6-Cas9-6	137644	29799	19	715692	4722	4
anln-g6-Cas9-8	120272.5	24997	25	719710	4659	6
kmt2d-g3-4	116601.5	20554	22	722869	5663	5
kmt2d-g3-5	139178	28685	23	714383	5739	3
kmt2d-g3-Cas9-1	118623	24801	60	720884	4646	10
kmt2d-g3-Cas9-2	116798	20458	46	715781	5446	7
kmt2d-g3-Cas9-4	133515.5	34500	45	722333	5807	10
kmt2d-g3-Cas9-5	111948.5	25153	32	715519	4491	5
kmt2d-g3-Cas9-6	119867.5	24248	28	719554	5316	4
kmt2d-g3-Cas9-9	133272	30346	23	720748	5624	6
kmt2d-g4-1	123010.5	31250	26	716594	5504	5
kmt2d-g4-5	124993.5	26831	21	713325	5172	2
kmt2d-g4-Cas9-4	119952.5	24033	28	707322	4837	2
kmt2d-g4-Cas9-5	119101.5	22956	20	705218	4510	4
kmt2d-g4-Cas9-6	122240	26406	31	711825	5501	2

kmt2d-g4-Cas9-7	119373	33534	31	717861	5671	3
kmt2d-g4-Cas9-8	137530	33943	23	722359	5524	5
kmt2d-g4-Cas9-9	134129	37854	32	721268	5812	7
smchd1-g4-1	128430.5	26487	32	721553	5109	6
smchd1-g4-2	122734.5	32737	22	714473	5452	1
smchd1-g4-Cas9-2	112519.5	21120	18	712893	4548	1
smchd1-g4-Cas9-3	133350.5	28182	31	715977	4646	6
smchd1-g4-Cas9-4	129172.5	26522	17	709164	4852	7
smchd1-g4-Cas9-5	120364	26252	24	716579	4391	5
smchd1-g4-Cas9-7	125670.5	24490	28	718073	4766	5
smchd1-g4-Cas9-8	124193.5	26396	17	713050	4667	7
smchd1-g5-2	139507	34868	16	719051	5491	4
smchd1-g5-3	133208.5	32225	27	721170	5669	4
smchd1-g5-Cas9-10	125004	27506	13	707974	4411	3
smchd1-g5-Cas9-2	128403	29684	33	716875	4833	5
smchd1-g5-Cas9-4	127675.5	27174	24	717089	5516	4
smchd1-g5-Cas9-6	126063	31473	42	721368	5204	11
smchd1-g5-Cas9-8	95182.5	15438	14	668596	3244	2
smchd1-g5-Cas9-9	107702	24169	33	721002	6121	2

^{*}Reported count is an average of the counts called against the female parent and the counts called against the male parent.

Table S7: Wilcox comparison p-values on predicted variants in F0

		MuTect2			VarScan2	
Sample	AF ≥ 0.3	AF ≥ 0.1	All calls	AF ≥ 0.3	AF ≥ 0.1	All calls
Control vs edited	0.04	0.08	0.89	0.15	0.48	0.82
Cas9 present vs absent	0.04	0.15	0.74	0.05	0.34	0.89
Guide present vs absent						
High vs none	0.90	0.31	0.58	0.16	0.26	0.41
Low vs none	0.69	0.86	0.87	0.69	0.49	0.58

Table S8: Wilcox comparison p-values on reviewed variants in F0 (VarScan2 only)

Sample	AF ≥ 0.3
Control vs edited	0.38
Cas9 present vs absent	0.32
Guide present vs absent	
High vs none	0.50
Low vs none	0.61

Table S9: Wilcox comparison p-values on variants called by both callers in F0

Sample	AF ≥ 0.3	AF ≥ 0.1	No filter
Control vs edited	0.78	0.49	0.97
Cas9 present vs absent	0.96	0.77	0.51
Guide present vs absent			
High vs none	1.0	1.0	0.25
Low vs none	0.89	0.86	0.44

Table S10: Expected off-target observations in region by chance, hypergeometric p-value

Guide	Sample size (# off-target sites x 200bp)	Max. observed variants in individual	p-value (under- represented) vs population max. variant rate	p-value (under- represented) vs population min. variant rate
anln-g1	317200	2	1.07e-17	.531
anln-g6	524400	1	5.63e-32	.077
kmt2d-g3	269200	1	4.2e-16	.363
kmt2d-g4	169200	1	5.5e-10	.606
smchd1-g4	183400	0	NA	NA
smchd1-g5	151400	1	.367	.657

Hypergeometric p-values calculated with the Rothstein lab hypergeometric calculator, using the capture space (74691693 bp) as the population size, and a high or low estimate for the expected population variant counts (10975 vs 608, respectively).

Table S11: Variants at predicted off-target loci

Sample	Condition	Variant	Ref	Alt	Variant	Predicted	Prediction	Allele
					Caller	off-target	algorithm	Frequency
anln-g1-3	Guide only	24:28102298*	A	С	VarScan2	24:28102339-61	Cas-OFFinder	0.05
anln-g1-Cas9-7	Edited	24:28102298*	Α	С	VarScan2	24:28102339-61	Cas-OFFinder	0.05
anln-g1-3	Guide only	2:44898792**	С	Т	VarScan2	2:44898891-913	MIT CRISPOR	0.06
anln-g1-Cas9-9	Edited	2:44898798**	G	Т	VarScan2	2:44898891-913	MIT CRISPOR	0.06
anln-g1-Cas9-6	Edited	7:65593684**	AC	Α	VarScan2	7:65593592-602	CRISPR-direct	0.1
anln-g6-Cas9-10	Edited	16:54853302-9**	Clustered ever	nt	MuTect2	16:54853401-11	CRISPR-direct	<0.05
kmt2d-g4-Cas9-7	Edited	5:62586647**	Α	ACAC	VarScan2	5:62586546-56	CRISPR-direct	0.26
anln-g6-Cas9-3	Edited	16:10603230†	С	Α	VarScan2	16:10603172-82	CRISPR-direct	0.06
kmt2d-g3-Cas9-1	Edited	22:20459578†	С	Т	VarScan2	22:20459646-56	CRISPR-direct	0.08
kmt2d-g3-Cas9-2	Edited	22:20459578†	С	Т	VarScan2	22:20459646-56	CRISPR-direct	0.08
kmt2d-g3-Cas9-4	Edited	22:20459578†	С	Т	VarScan2	22:20459646-56	CRISPR-direct	0.1
smchd1-g5-3	Guide only	2:50824997-9	CTG	AAA	MuTect2	2:50824943-53	CRISPR-direct	0.05
kmt2d-g4-Cas9-5	Edited	14:2529163	Α	G	VarScan2	14:2529206-28	Cas-OFFinder	0.05
smchd1-g5-Cas9-2	Edited	25:21049069-77	ACTAGCGTG	Α	MuTect2	25:21048965-75	CRISPR-direct	<0.05
anln-g1-Cas9-6	Edited	14:11156689	GAGACC	A	MuTect2	14:11156666-99	MIT CRISPOR, Cas-OFFinder	<0.05

^{*}Variant at off-target site reported in both control and edited samples for this guide

^{**}Variant observed in siblings from other conditions

[†] Variant at off-target site not supported by reads on both strands