

Supplementary information for

Defining the landscape of circular RNAs in neuroblastoma unveils a global suppressive function of MYCN

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Fig. S1

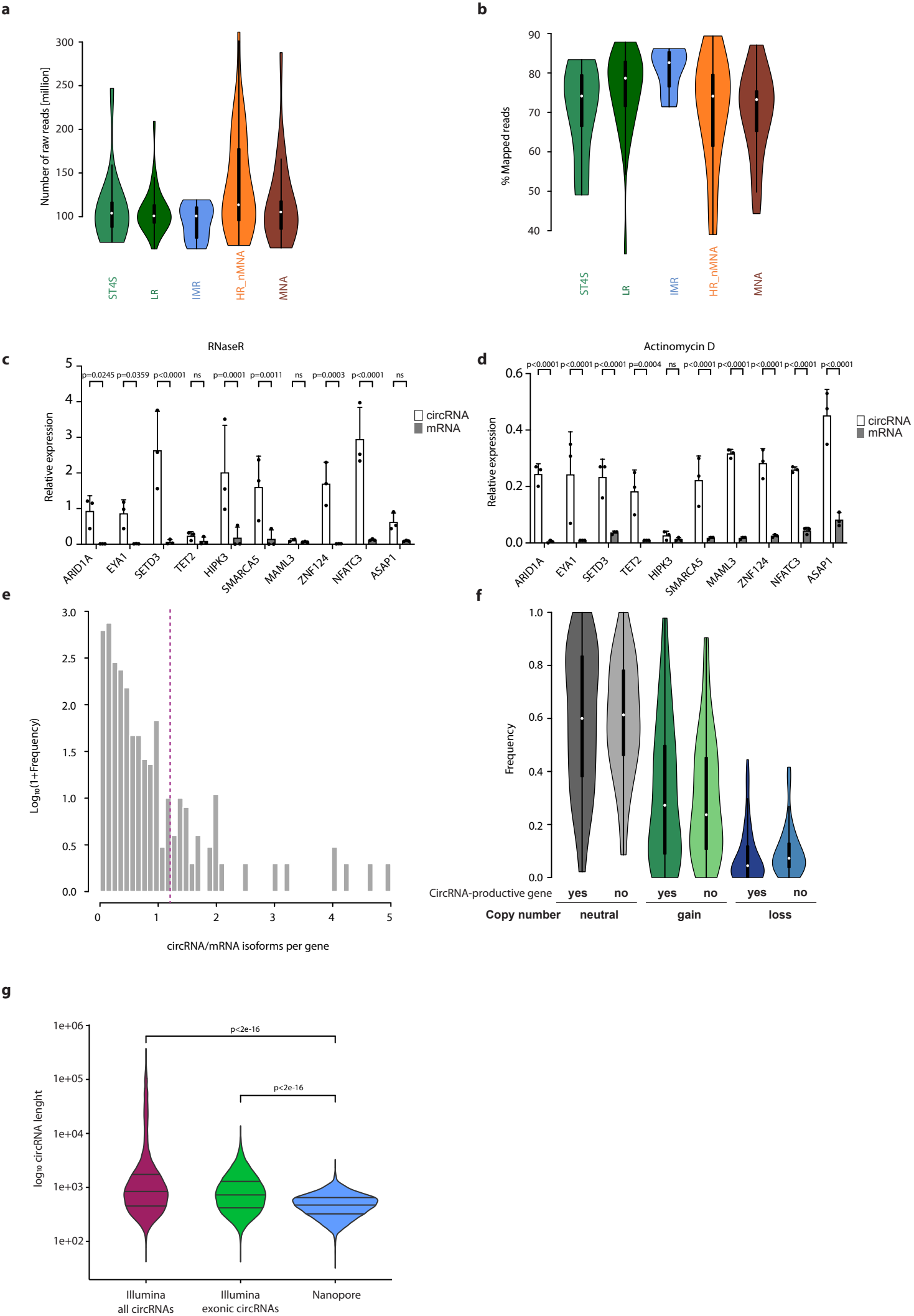


Figure S1| circRNAs detected by RNA sequencing are validated and their frequency is not dependent on chromosomal gain or loss.

a-b, Primary neuroblastoma tumor samples (n=104 biologically independent samples) have been analyzed by total RNA sequencing. Violin plots showing sequencing statistics. **a**, Generated raw reads per risk-group. **b**, Mappable reads per risk-group.

c-d, Validation of 10 circRNAs by qRT-PCR in comparison to the cognate mRNA in IMR-5/75 cells (n=3 biologically independent experiments, Data are presented as mean \pm SD, Two-way ANOVA test).

c, Assessment of circularity after RNaseR treatment, **d**, Evaluation of transcript stability after actinomycin D treatment.

e, Global distribution of the ratios of circRNA/mRNA isoforms produced by genes as determined in our neuroblastoma tumor cohort (n=104 biologically independent samples). The cutoff for circRNA-producing genes is marked as used for the Circos plot in **Figure 1d**.

f, The frequency of circRNAs derived from *circRNA-productive genes* associated with, or independent of copy-number neutral, gain or loss regions as determined by whole-genome sequencing of matched neuroblastoma tumors (n=64 biologically independent samples) is shown. Data are presented as a violin plot.

g, The length of circRNAs was estimated based on short-read Illumina RNA sequencing data of neuroblastoma tumor samples (n=104 biologically independent samples) for all circRNAs, only exonic circRNAs, and in comparison to Oxford Nanopore long-read sequencing data of 6 neuroblastoma cell lines (n=6 biologically independent experiments). Data are presented as a violin plot. Violin plots use normal optimal smoothing. The median (white dot), quartiles (box), and 1.5-fold interquartile range (whiskers) are displayed. Wilcoxon Rank Sum test, two sided. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Fig. S2

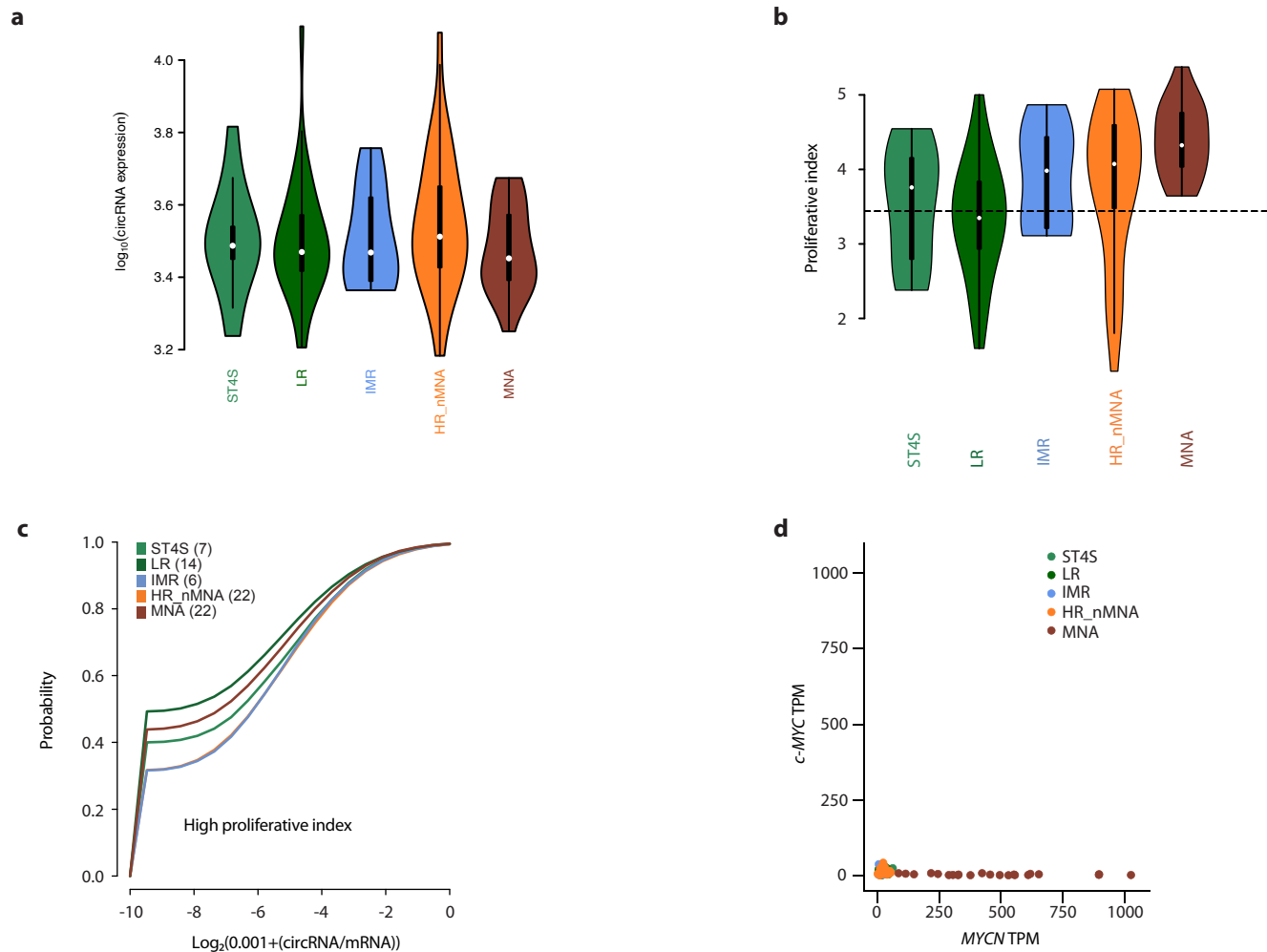


Figure S2| circRNA expression is not biased by proliferation in MYCN-amplified neuroblastoma.

a, Expression of circRNAs, measured as a ratio of circRNA over cognate mRNA expression, per risk group in neuroblastoma tumor samples (n=104 biologically independent samples). Data are presented as a violin plot.

b, Distribution of the proliferative index per risk group of neuroblastoma tumor samples (n=104 biologically independent samples). The threshold for tumors considered to have a high proliferative index used for **c** is marked by a dashed line. ST4S, stage 4S; LR, low risk; IMR, intermediate risk; HR_nMNA, high-risk non *MYCN*-amplified; MNA, *MYCN*-amplified. Data are presented as a violin plot.

c, Expression of circRNAs was analyzed similar to **Figure 3b** as a ratio of circRNA over mRNA, but using only the tumors in the high-proliferative index group. Number of tumors with high proliferative index per risk group is shown in parenthesis.

d, Expression of *c-MYC* and *MYCN* is shown in our neuroblastoma tumor samples (n=104 biologically independent samples). Violin plots use normal optimal smoothing. The median (white dot), quartiles (box), and 1.5-fold interquartile range (whiskers) are displayed. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Fig. S3

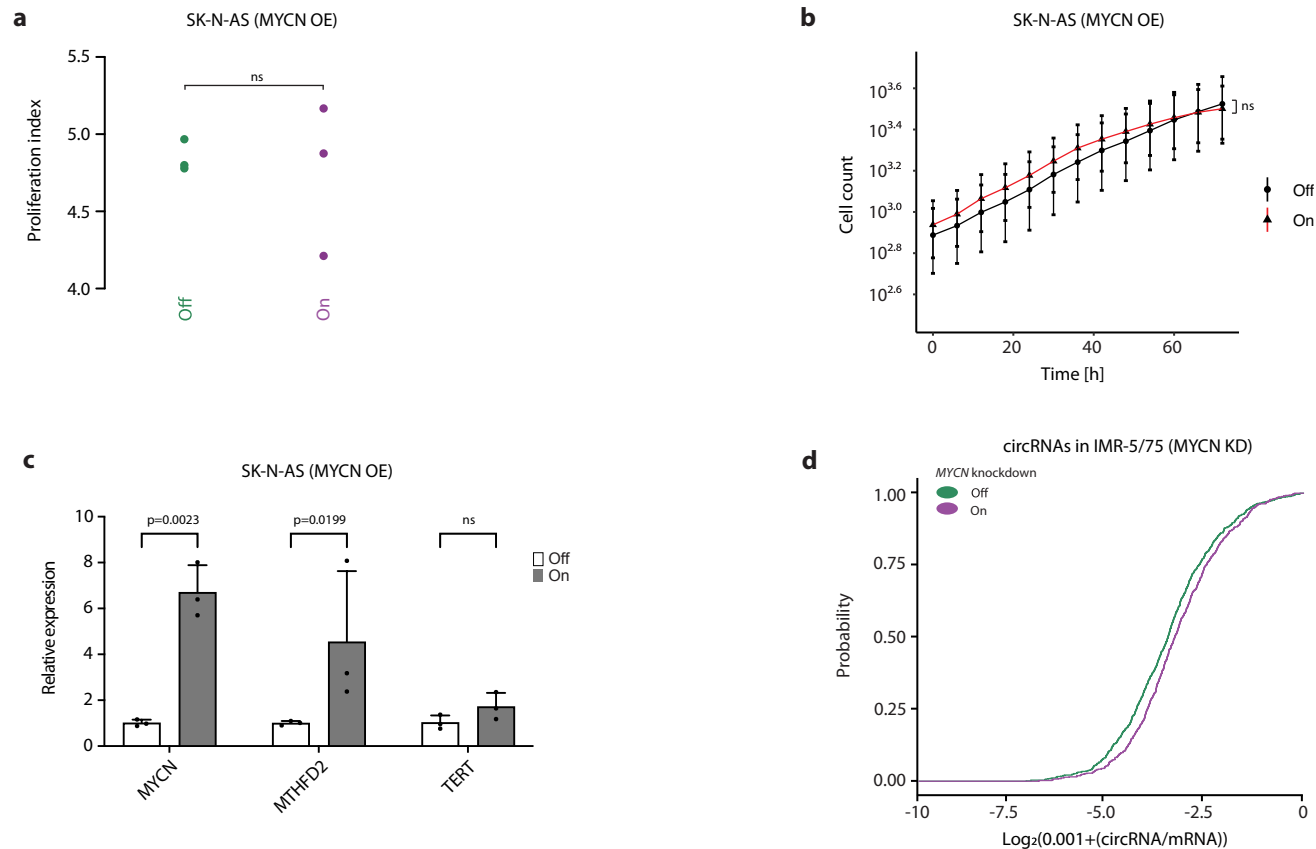


Figure S3| Validation of the inducible *MYCN*-expression system.

a, Proliferative index was calculated based on RNA-sequencing data of the inducible *MYCN* expression system in SK-N-AS cells (**Figure 3c**) as in **Supplementary Fig. 2** and non-induced cells (off) were compared with induced cells (on) (n=3 biologically independent experiments, Unpaired two-sided Mann Whitney-U test).

b, Real-time proliferation analysis after 48 h of induction of *MYCN* expression in SK-N-AS inducible cells (n=3 biologically independent experiments, Data are presented as median \pm range, Unpaired two-sided Mann Whitney-U test).

c, Assessment of the expression of *MYCN* and the direct published targets *MTHFD2* and *TERT* after 120 h induction of SK-N-AS cells by qRT-PCR (n=3 biologically independent experiments, Data are presented as mean \pm SD, Two-way ANOVA test).

d, *MYCN* knockdown was induced for 120h in IMR-5/75 cells harboring an inducible shRNA to target *MYCN*. Total RNA sequencing was performed and the ratio of circRNA to linear RNAs was calculated Unpaired two-sided Mann Whitney-U test). The knockdown was confirmed by western blot (**Fig. 4f**). Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Fig. S4

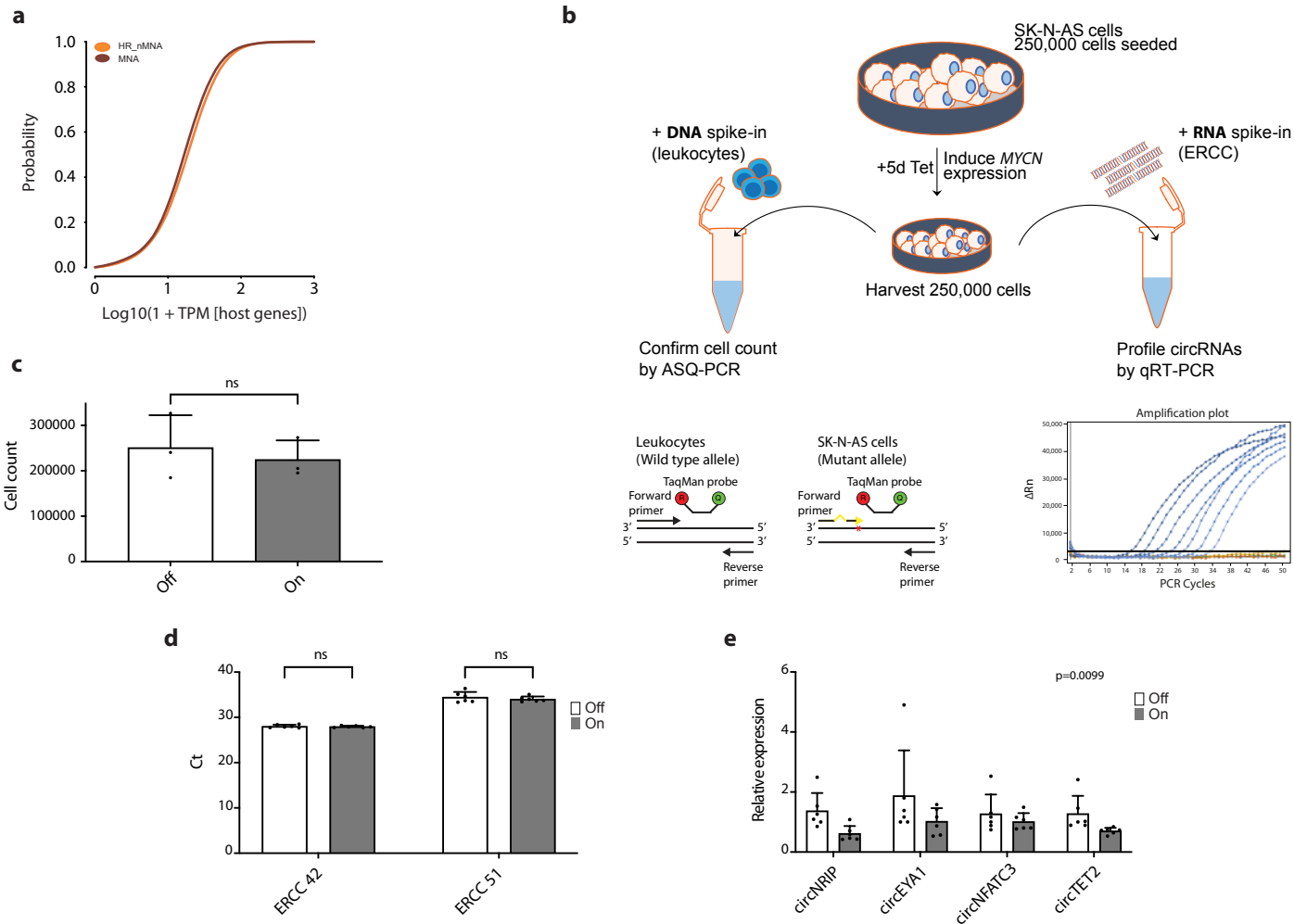


Figure S4| MYCN induction leads to an absolute downregulation of circRNAs.

a, Distribution of the expression (as transcripts per million, TPMs) of host genes that produce circRNAs in *MYCN*-amplified (MNA, n=22 biologically independent samples) and high-risk non *MYCN*-amplified (HR_nMNA, n=29 biologically independent samples) neuroblastoma tumor samples. Mann-Whitney U test, two-sided, $p < 1e-16$.

b, Scheme showing the experimental workflow to validate an absolute downregulation of circRNAs in the inducible *MYCN* expression system based on SK-N-AS cells. Tet, tetracyclin; ERCC, External RNA Controls Consortium; ASQ-PCR, allele-specific RQ-PCR.

c, Assessment of cell count of non-induced (off) vs. induced (on) SK-N-AS cells by ASQ-PCR (n=3 biologically independent experiments, Data are presented as mean \pm SD, unpaired two-sided Student's t-test).

d, Detection of ERCC spike-in transcript 42 and 51 by qRT-PCR in non-induced (off) vs. induced (on) SK-N-AS cells (n=6 biologically independent experiments, Data are presented as mean \pm SD, Two-way ANOVA test).

e, Expression of 4 circRNAs determined by qRT-PCR after *MYCN* induction normalized to an average of ERCC spike-in transcript 42 and 51 (n=6 biologically independent experiments, Data are presented as mean \pm SD, Two-way ANOVA test). Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Fig. S5

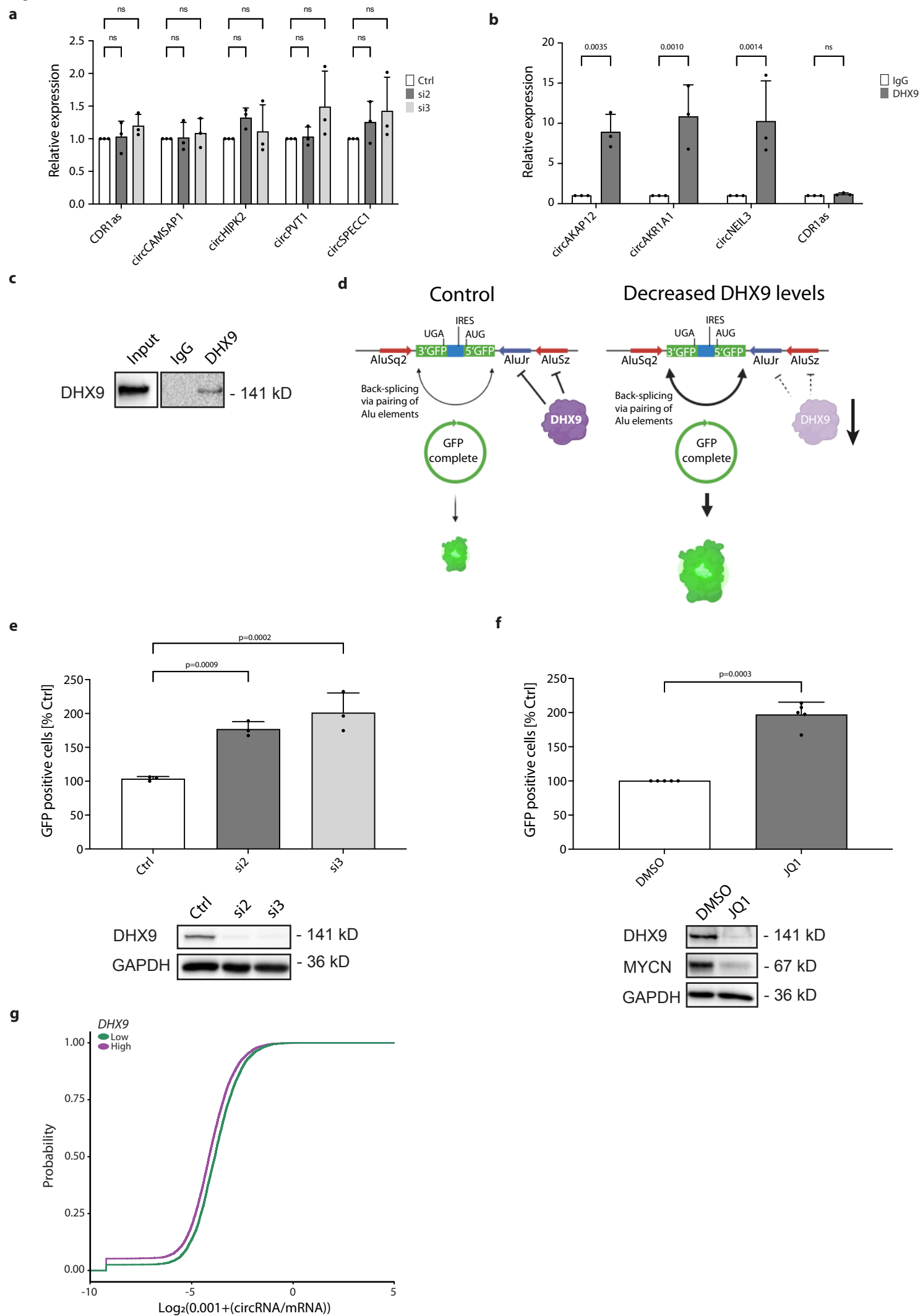


Figure S5| DHX9 regulates circRNAs enriched in Alu-repeats in their flanking introns.

a, DHX9 knockdown was performed in IMR-5 neuroblastoma cells with 2 different siRNAs and circRNAs that were reported not to be regulated by DHX9 were profiled by qRT-PCR (n=3 biologically independent experiments, Data are presented as mean \pm SD, Two-way ANOVA test, related to **Fig. 4i**).

b, RNA immunoprecipitation (RIP) was performed for DHX9 in IMR-5 cells and enrichment of circRNAs was analyzed by qRT-PCR with primer pairs targeting flanking introns (n=3 biologically independent experiments, Data are presented as mean \pm SD, Two-way ANOVA test).

c, Specificity of RIP in **b** was validated by western blot. Anti-IgG antibody served as control (n=3 biologically independent experiments).

d, Scheme showing the reporter assay to demonstrate the effect of different DHX9 levels on RNA circularization. A non-functional split *GFP* is flanked by introns from the *ZKSCAN1* gene that harbor several Alu elements. This helps to circularize the *GFP* and render it functional. DHX9 inhibits this process by binding to the Alu elements. DHX9 downregulation fosters circularization and leads to more functional *GFP*. AUG, start codon; UGA, stop codon; IRES, internal ribosomal entry site; AluSq2, AluJr, AluSz, different Alu repeat elements. Figure created with BioRender.com.

e, DHX9 knockdown was performed in SH-EP cells harboring the reporter system and GFP positive cells were measured by flow cytometry in comparison to the control knockdown. Knockdown was validated by western blot (n=3 biologically independent experiments, Data are presented as mean \pm SD, One-way ANOVA test).

f, MYCN was inhibited with the BET bromodomain inhibitor JQ1 in IMR-5 cells and GFP positive cells were measured by flow cytometry in comparison to the control treatment with DMSO (n=5 biologically independent experiments, Data are presented as mean \pm SD, Two-sided paired Student's t-test). Downregulation of MYCN and DHX9 was validated by western blot.

g, Neuroblastoma tumor samples were clustered in high and low DHX9 expressers and the effect on circRNA/linRNA expression ratios was analyzed (n=104 biologically independent samples, Wilcoxon Rank Sum test, two-sided, $p < 2e-16$). Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Fig. S6

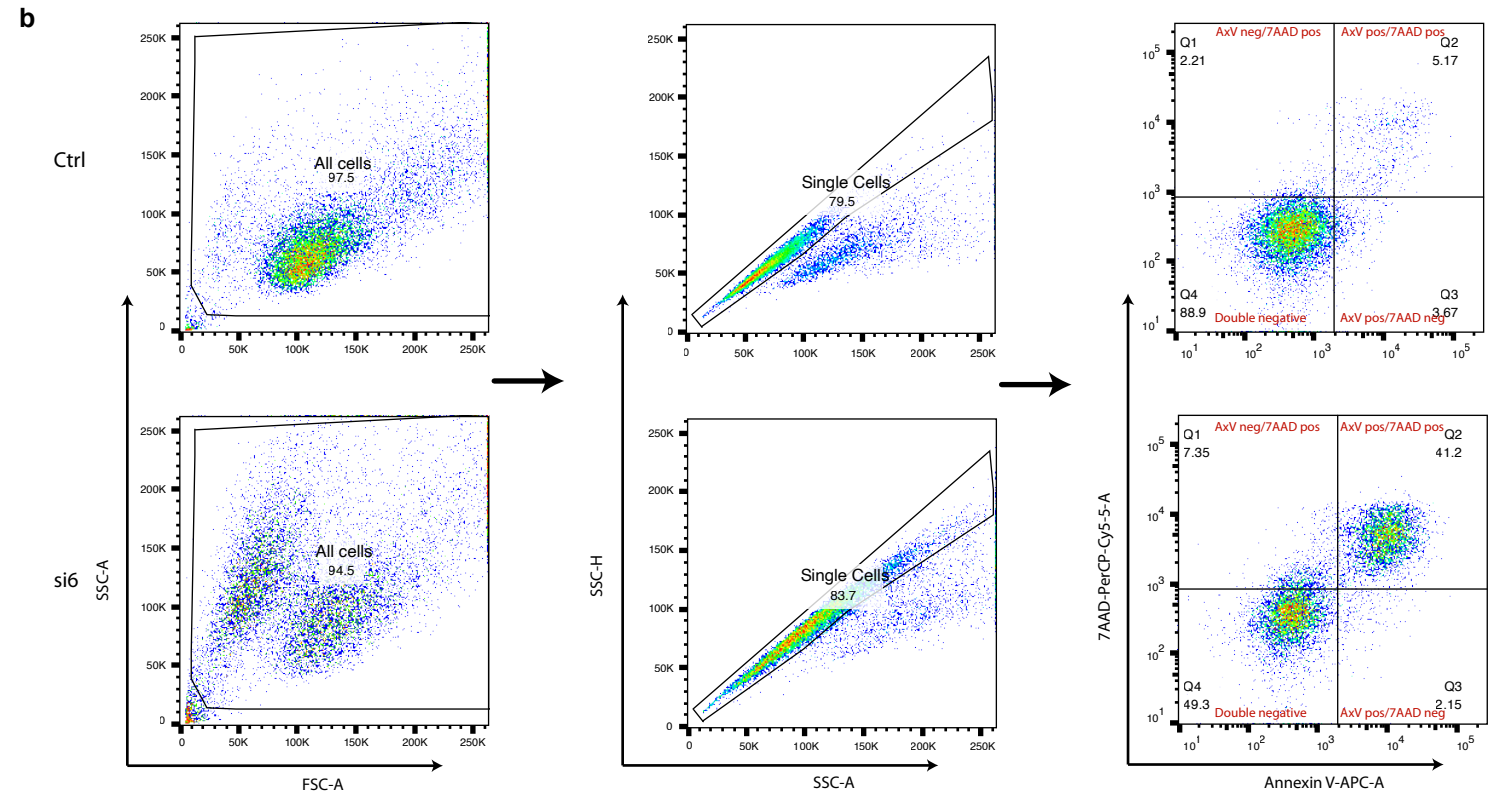
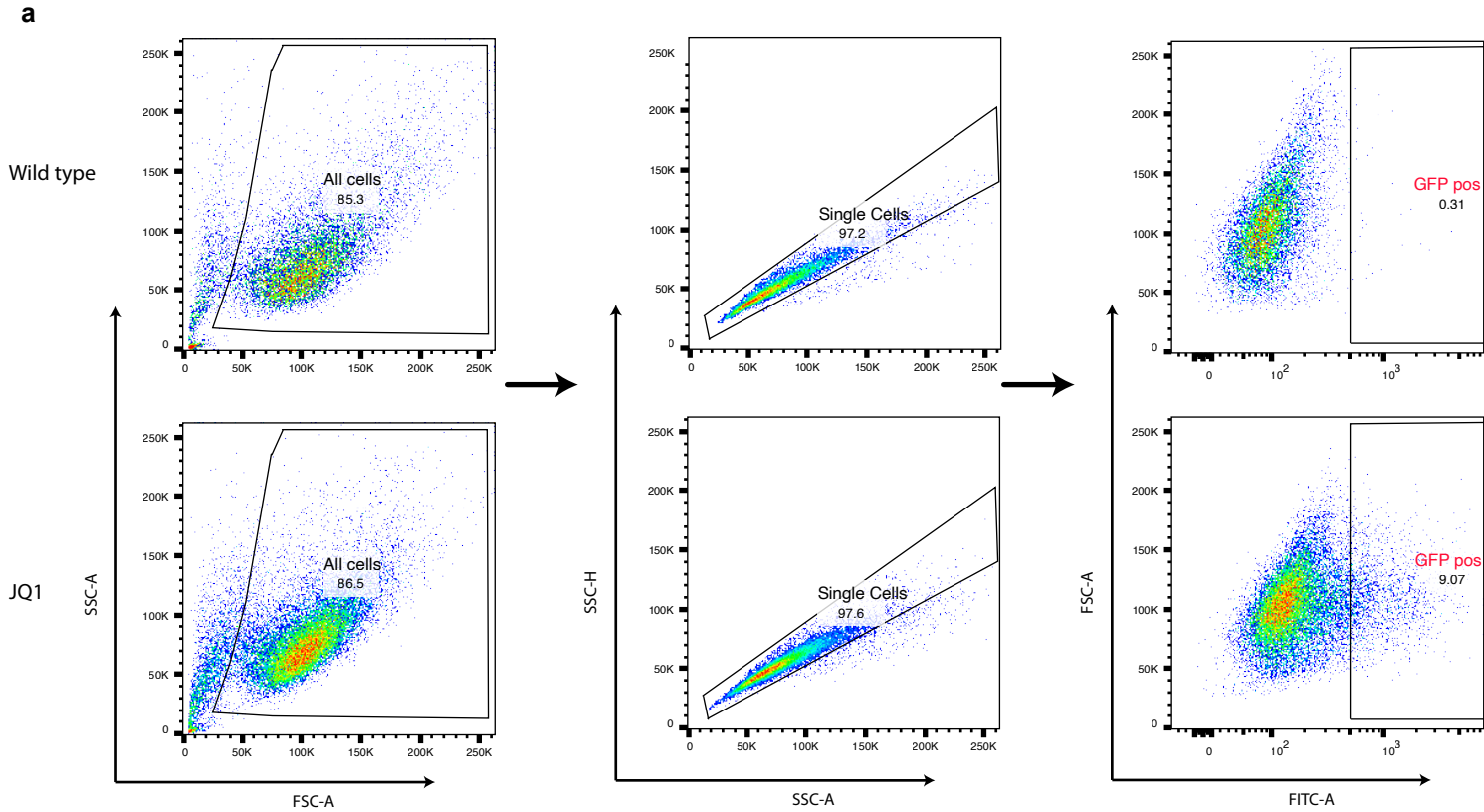


Figure S6| Representative flow cytometry gating used in this study.

a, Gating strategy for the detection of GFP positive cells in wild type cells and cells harboring the ZKSCAN1 plasmid after JQ1 treatment in the DHX9 reporter assay.

b, Gating strategy for the detection of apoptotic cells as indicated by Annexin V in control (Ctrl) and knockdown cells (si6).

Fig. S7

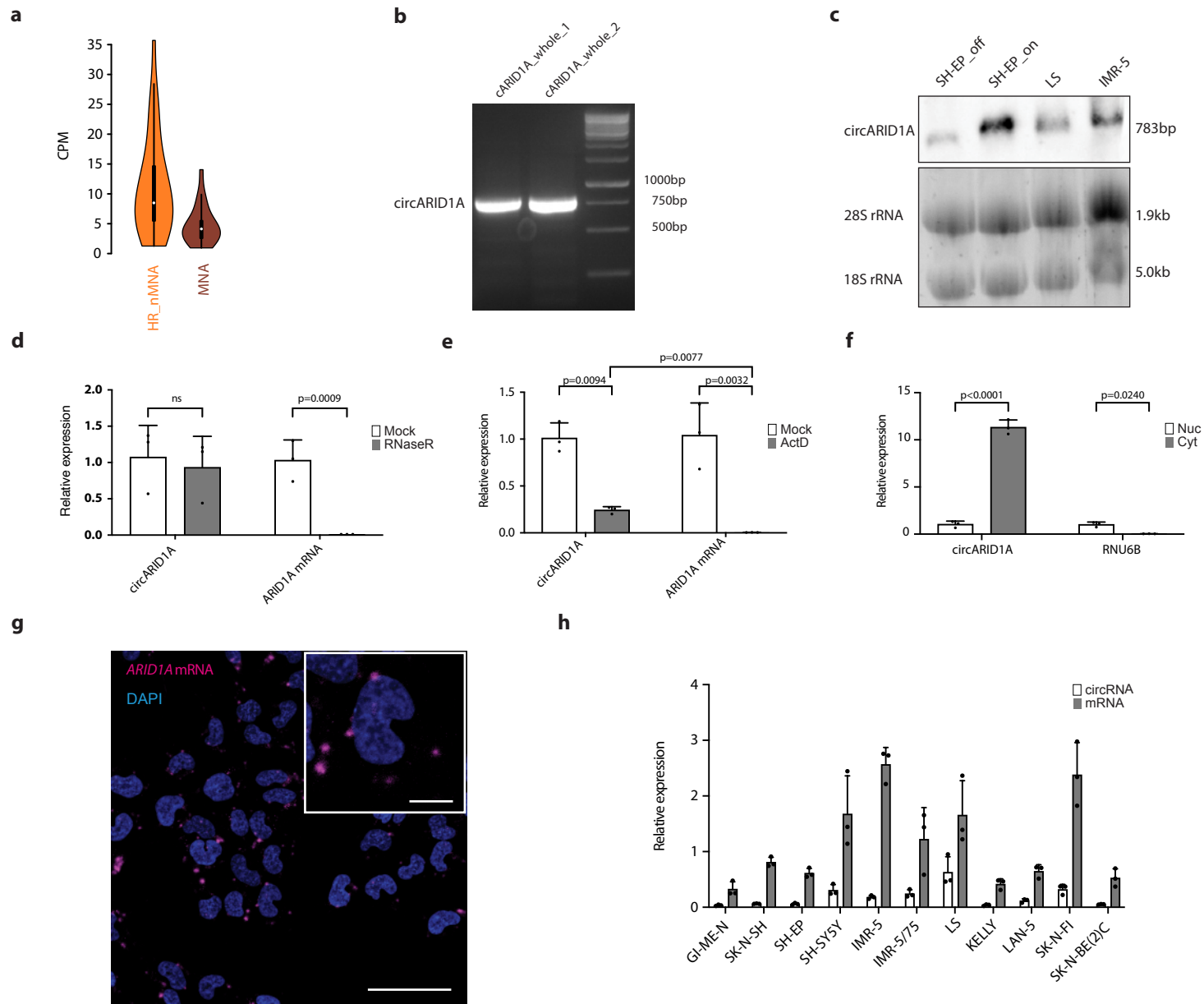


Figure S7| circARID1A was validated in vitro in neuroblastoma cells.

a, Expression of circARID1A in *MYCN*-amplified (MNA, n=22 biologically independent samples) and high-risk non *MYCN*-amplified (HR_nMNA, n=29) neuroblastoma tumors as CPM (counts per million). Data are presented as a violin plot. Violin plots use normal optimal smoothing. The median (white dot), quartiles (box), and 1.5-fold interquartile range (whiskers) are displayed.

b, The whole 783 nt circARID1A was entirely amplified by RT-PCR with 2 different primer pairs and detected by agarose gel electrophoresis (n=1).

c, Direct detection of circARID1A by northern blotting in LS and IMR-5 cells and in SH-EP cells that harbor an inducible expression system for circARID1A (as in **Supplementary Fig. 8**). The input was controlled using an RNA agarose gel analysis. Ribosomal RNA bands are indicated (n=2 biologically independent experiments). Off, non-induced; on, induced.

d, circARID1A und *ARID1A* mRNA expression after exonuclease (RNaseR) treatment of IMR-5/75 cells (n=3 biologically independent experiments, Data are presented as mean \pm SD, two-way ANOVA test, as in Supplementary Fig. 1).

e, circARID1A und *ARID1A* mRNA expression after actinomycin D (ActD) treatment of IMR-5/75 cells (n=3 biologically independent experiments, Data are presented as mean \pm SD, two-way ANOVA test, two-sided paired Student's t-test for comparison of circRNA with mRNA, as in Supplementary Fig. 1).

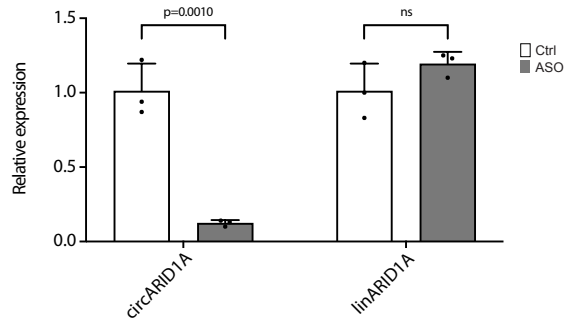
f, Detection of circARID1A and RNU6B (nuclear marker) after cell fractionation in IMR-5 cells by qRT-PCR (n=3 biologically independent experiments, Data are presented as mean \pm SD, two-way ANOVA test); Nuc, nucleus; cyt, cytoplasm.

g, Direct detection of *ARID1A* mRNA (red color) by RNA-FISH in IMR-5 cells. Nuclei are stained with DAPI (blue color). Insert was digitally magnified. Scale: large image 50 μ m, small image 10 μ m (n=2 biologically independent experiments).

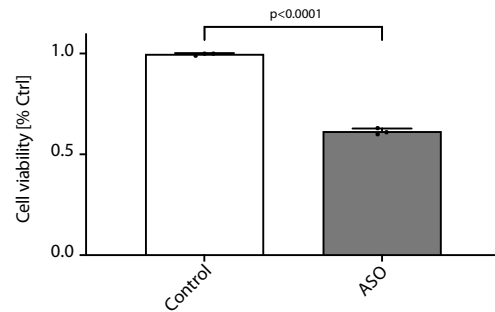
h, Expression of circARID1A and *ARID1A* mRNA across 11 neuroblastoma cell lines by qRT-PCR (n=3 biologically independent experiments, Data are presented as mean \pm SD). Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Fig. S8

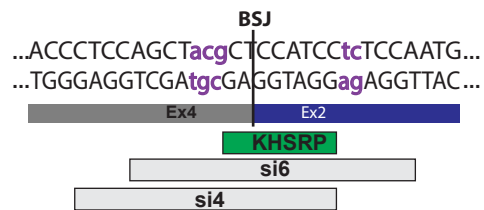
a



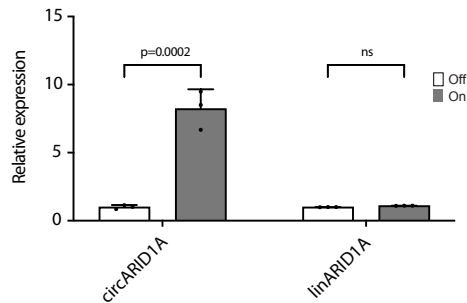
b



c



d



e

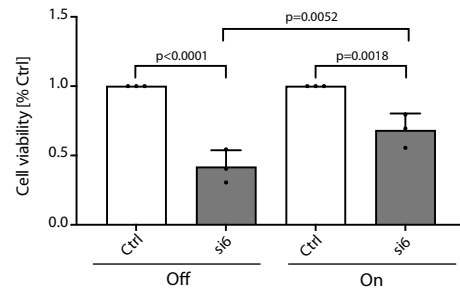


Figure S8| The specificity of the knockdown of circARID1A was confirmed by alternative strategies.

a, circARID1A was knocked down in IMR-5 cells by an antisense oligonucleotide (ASO) and the expression of circARID1A and *ARID1A* mRNA assessed by qRT-PCR (n=3 biologically independent experiments, Data are presented as mean \pm SD, Two-way ANOVA test).

b, Cell viability was measured after ASO-mediated knockdown in IMR-5 cells (n=3 biologically independent experiments, Data are presented as mean \pm SD, Two-sided unpaired Student's t-test).

c, The scheme shows the overexpression construct with the mutated back-splice junction (BSJ) of circARID1A, the binding sites of KHSRP and the two different siRNAs used for the rescue experiment with SH-EP cells. Mutated nucleotides are marked in purple.

d, The overexpression of circARID1A without (Off) or with (On) induction was validated by qRT-PCR (n=3 biologically independent experiments, Data are presented as mean \pm SD, Two-way ANOVA test).

e, Cell viability after knockdown of circARID1A without (Off) or with (On) inducing the ectopic expression of the mutated circARID1A was determined (n=3 biologically independent experiments, Data are presented as mean \pm SD, One-way ANOVA test). Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Fig. S9

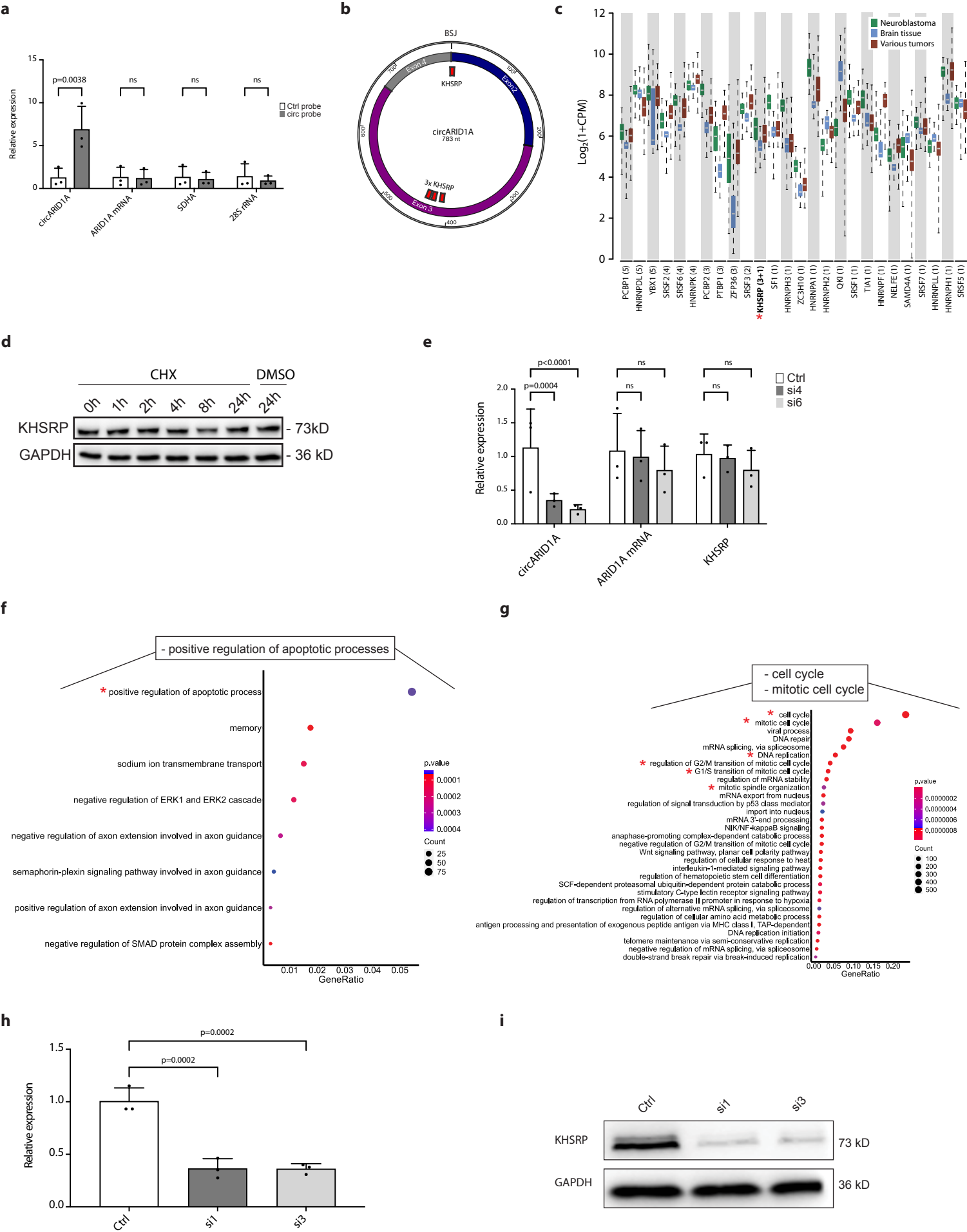


Figure S9| KHSRP participates in the function of circARID1A by direct interaction.

a, Enrichment of circARID1A after pulldown in comparison to *ARID1A* mRNA and control transcripts determined by qRT-PCR (n=3 biologically independent experiments, Data are presented as mean \pm SD, Two-way ANOVA test).

b, The scheme shows circARID1A and the enriched KHSRP sites determined *in silico*. The back-splice junction is marked (BSJ). The figure was created with SnapGene Viewer.

c, Expression of RNA-binding proteins (RBPs) with *in silico* identified motifs enriched in the circARID1A sequence (number of motifs in parenthesis) in neuroblastoma (green, n=104 biologically independent samples), brain tissue (blue, n=72 biologically independent samples) and other tumors (brown, n=86 biologically independent samples) shown as in **Figure 5a**. KHSRP (3 canonical and 1 non-canonical site) is marked in bold and by an asterisk. Data are presented as a box plot. The box plot center line, box limits and whiskers indicate the median, upper/lower quartiles and 1.5 \times interquartile range respectively.

d, Treatment of IMR-5 cells with cycloheximide (CHX) to block translation in comparison to a control treatment with DMSO and assessment of KHSRP and GAPDH protein levels by western blot (n=1).

e, Expression of circARID1A, *ARID1A* mRNA, and *KHSRP* after circARID1A knockdown in IMR-5 cells (n=3 biologically independent experiments, Data are presented as mean \pm SD, Two-way ANOVA test).

f, The enrichment of gene ontology terms (biological process, GO terms) in upregulated genes after *KHSRP* knockdown (n=3 biologically independent experiments) was calculated. Important terms are highlighted by an asterisk.

g, Calculation of enriched GO terms in downregulated genes after *KHSRP* knockdown in IMR-5 cells (n=3 biologically independent experiments). Important terms are highlighted by an asterisk.

h, Confirmation of *KHSRP* knockdown in IMR-5 cells by qRT-PCR (n=3 biologically independent experiments, Data are presented as mean \pm SD, one-way ANOVA test).

i, KHSRP abundance determined by western blot after *KHSRP* knockdown in IMR-5 cells (n=3 biologically independent experiments). Source data are provided as a Source Data file.