Reviewer’s report

**Title:** The radiosensitising effect of gemcitabine and its main metabolite dFdU under low oxygen conditions is in vitro not dependent on functional HIF-1 protein

**Version:** 2  
**Date:** 4 June 2014

**Reviewer:** Marco Carlo Merlano

**Reviewer’s report:**

**Minor Essential Revisions**

The experimental oxygen conditions mimic an anoxic situation rather than hypoxia as suggested in the title. It makes this study correctly comparable to the Authors previous report on non-small cell carcinoma line, but not to the papers considered in the “discussion” section.

A possible different response in hypoxic and anoxic conditions should be commented.

In addition, the reason why an anoxic condition has been preferred should also be explained.

- **Discretionary Revisions**

Line 57: Authors explain that anoxia means “an absence of oxygen”. I suggest to avoid this explanation (redundant).

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests