Reviewer's report

Title: The relation between deoxycytidine kinase activity and the radiosensitising effect of gemcitabine in eight different human tumour cell lines.

Version: 1 Date: 23 February 2006

Reviewer: Richard L Momparler

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

In the Discussion, the authors could mention the mode of action of Gemcitabine of producing a "chain termination" after its incorporation into DNA. This type of action would favor that DNA repair plays an important role with respect to its sensitizing the tumor cells to radiation. The mean value for dCK activity is about 8 nmol/h/mg. Only the ECV304 cells had a high value of 15.29 nmol/h/mg. One would expect that dCK plays a significant role if it is very low (1 nmol/h/mg).

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests for this manuscript.