

1 chemical -- for instance, methylene blue is a chemical
2 that has been used as a model for this in rats.

3 If you give rats some methylene blue on a
4 particular day, four or five days after conception,
5 then they get cleft palates.

6 That is a teratogenic effect, an effect
7 caused by an alteration during organogenesis, and it
8 is a birth defect.

9 Q Can you give us some examples of teratogens
10 in humans?

11 A Well, certainly thalidomide is the classic
12 teratogen that was rampant in the '50s in Germany and
13 caused the seal limbs in many children around the
14 world, fortunately not in the United States.

15 Q For those who may not recall or know, tell
16 us what thalidomide was used for?

17 A It was used as a sedative to prevent morning
18 sickness and allow women to sleep and other reasons,
19 but basically it was used as a sedative.

20 Q Any other teratogens in humans that you can
21 recall offhand?