mesothelial cells were exposed to asbestos fibers. We put some amosite fibers in the culture dish and allowed the cells to divide, to replicate which they would normally do, and then during -- while they were dividing, during that division process, we caused them to arrest in that division and process them in a particular manner so that we could examine the chromosomes, and that is what we are depicting here.

This is the first division of the cells after asbestos exposure.

Q Now, what is a chromosome?

A A chromosome is a unit of genetic material. Every cell in our body except for our red blood cells has a nucleus and in the nucleus is a set of chromosomes, 46 chromosomes to every normal human cell.

These chromosomes have DNA which is the genetic code. It essentially directs the cell and has all of the instructions for the cell built into the program, so it tells each individual cell what it should be doing.