

Critical review

Thalidomide

Fintel Bara. (2009). THE THALIDOMIDE TRAGEDY: LESSONS FOR DRUG SAFETY AND REGULATION. 03-02-20, de Helix:Connecting Science to You Sitio web:
<https://helix.northwestern.edu/article/thalidomide-tragedy-lessons-drug-safety-and-regulation>

The world goes through different diseases and things that require scientific help continuously. Many years ago, in the years 1957, a highly recognized disease called thalidomide arose in Germany. This disease attacked pregnant women. Thalidomide was used as a sedative and as a pain reliever for nausea during the first three months of pregnancy. While this medicine was being used, thousands of births of babies affected with phocomelia, a congenital anomaly characterized by the lack or excessive shortness of the extremities, were observed.

This disease was detected and studied by the scientist Widukind Lenz. Investigating it was discovered that there were two different thalidomide's, although of the same molecular formula, in which the arrangement of the groups in a carbon changed, something that until then was not considered. They found that this was given to women in racemic mixtures. A racemic mixture is when a mixture in which two chemical compounds with optical activity, which keep each other in the ratio of specular images, are found in equivalent proportions, that is, 50% and 50%.

Using the scientific method, many scientists did several experiments to determine which of the two isomers were effective in giving each pregnant woman and which isomers were causing harm and these defaults to the fetus. As a research method they took groups of pregnant women and divided it into two parts. A group of women would be given a part of the isomer while the other group was going to have the other 50% of the isomer. In this way, scientists were going to detect what was causing the damage of this medicine. The lives of some women and their children were sacrificed since one of the parties was the one that caused harm.

After long months of studying this disease, the problem that caused so much damage could be solved. Thalidomide is currently used for anti-inflammatories with who support. It should not be noted that Thalidomide and its use is done under strict medical supervision.