

the infant of a mother who had taken phenmetrazine.

It should be noted that all of these studies are retrospective and some are merely case reports, but they contribute to a sizable volume of evidence which supports the possibility that these drugs are teratogenic, despite the fact that the definitive prospective study has not been performed.

If appetite suppressants (which is just a polite term for "uppers") had a useful function in the medical armamentarium, one could not accept the present retrospective data as sufficient evidence to abrogate the use of these drugs. We are currently trying to resolve the problem of conflicting retrospective data regarding birth defects and the "Pill" and various progestogens and estrogens through a prospective study. The point is: the world needs the "Pill" or some agent that can perform its function equally well. I am unable to identify a similar need for amphetamines and related drugs.