



**FIGURE 3.5**

**TERATOGENS AND THE TIMING OF THEIR EFFECTS ON PRENATAL DEVELOPMENT.** The danger of structural defects caused by teratogens is greatest early in embryonic development. The period of organogenesis (red color) lasts for about six weeks. Later assaults by teratogens (blue-green color) mainly occur in the fetal period and instead of causing structural damage are more likely to stunt growth or cause problems of organ function.