

DRUG FACTS

With so many voices and opinions out there, all you need is the knowledge to make your own decisions.

CLASS NOTES ► ROHYPNOL

THE LOWDOWN

Dangerous when taken on its own, and fatally dangerous when combined with alcohol, Rohypnol is horrifyingly infamous for being the “date-rape drug.”

AKA:

Forget-me pill, Mexican valium, R2, roche, roofies, roach, rope, wolfies

WHAT IS IT:

Rohypnol is a central nervous system (CNS) depressant medication that is not approved or available for medical use in the United States. In this country, it is illegally abused for sedative and muscle-relaxant effects.⁵⁷ Because of these effects, it has been associated with sexual assaults and is known as the “date-rape drug.”

THE RISKS:

Rohypnol slows down the central nervous system, causing a range of effects, including exhaustion, sedation, confusion, impaired coordination, impaired judgment and memory loss. Use it, and you can be physically and psychologically incapacitated, meaning you’re unable to move or think—or you’re knocked out. This is why it has been used in targeting people for sexual assault.⁵⁷

In the past, it was easy to slip the drug into a drink, because it was colorless and tasteless. In 1997, the drug was reformulated so that when dissolved in light-colored drinks, it will dye the liquid blue. Still, be forewarned: generic versions of Rohypnol may not contain this blue dye.⁵⁷

LONG-TERM EFFECTS:

Rohypnol is lethal when combined with alcohol or other drugs. It can slow the pulse and breathing, leading to unconsciousness, slowed heart rate, suppressed breathing and, ultimately, death.

THE BOTTOM LINE:

With the extreme damage it does to your central nervous system, the effects of Rohypnol can make any activity lethal, or any party dangerous. This is one drug that can knock you out completely, maybe even for life.

SOURCES

57: Drug Enforcement Agency. *Drug Fact Sheet: Rohypnol* (http://www.justice.gov/dea/pubs/abuse/drug_data_sheets/Rohypnol.pdf). Retrieved August 2011.

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PRESSURE METER

The pressure drops when you keep track of the facts.

Rohypnol may be lethal when mixed with alcohol and other drugs.²²

Both Rohypnol and GHB have been used to commit sexual assaults because they can sedate and incapacitate unsuspecting victims.²²

SOURCES

22: National Institute on Drug Abuse. *NIDA InfoFacts: Club Drugs (GHB, Ketamine, and Rohypnol)* (<http://www.drugabuse.gov/infofacts/clubdrugs.html>). Revised July 2011. Retrieved July 2011.