



The real truth about Rohypnol

Rohypnol is predominantly a central nervous system depressant. Because it is often colorless, tasteless, and odorless, they can be added to beverages and ingested unknowingly. These drugs emerged a few years ago as “date rape” drugs.

Rohypnol, a trade name for flunitrazepam, belongs to a class of drugs known as benzodiazepines. When mixed with alcohol, Rohypnol can incapacitate victims and prevent them from resisting sexual assault. It can produce “anterograde amnesia,” which means individuals may not remember events they experienced while under the effects of the drug. Also, Rohypnol may be lethal when mixed with alcohol and/or other depressants. Rohypnol is not approved for use in Canada, and its importation is banned. Illicit use of Rohypnol started appearing in Canada in the early 1990s, where it became known as “rophies,” “roofies,” “roach,” and “rope.”

Abuse of two other similar drugs appears to have replaced Rohypnol abuse in some regions of the country. These are clonazepam, marketed in the U.S. as Klonopin and in Mexico as Rivotril, and alprazolam, marketed as Xanax.

Rohypnol, however, continues to be a problem among treatment admissions in hospitals across the Country.