Rohypnol

Roofies, the "Date Rape Drug", Rophies, Roach, Rope, R2, Mexican Valium

What is rohypnol?

Rohypnol (the trade name for flunitrazepam) is a tranquilliser which has recently been called by the media a 'date rape' drug.

Rohypnol is a legitimate drug used in the short-term treatment of sleep disorders, producing sedative-hypnotic effects including muscle relaxation and amnesia. It is alleged that some men have slipped the drug into the drinks of young women who either then pass out or experience short-term memory loss and are then vulnerable to sexual exploitation and rape.

It has been implicated in several date rape cases in the US, although there is no confirmed case of it being used in sexual assault cases in the UK.

Recently companies have started to sell products which will test for the Benzodiazepine group of drugs, which are commonly associated with Drug Rape. These usually take the form of test strips or beer mats, which can be easily carried on a night out for discrete testing. They can also detect benzodiazepines in urine, and can be used as a 'morning after' test.

Law

Rohypnol is a class C drug. It can be obtained only through private prescription in the UK. It is not illegal to possess the drug if it has been obtained through prescription. Supply without authority is illegal and Class C penalties apply (maximum 14 years imprisonment and/or fine).

Effects/risks

Rohypnol use causes dependence in humans. Once dependence has developed, abstention induces withdrawal symptoms, including headache, muscle pain, extreme anxiety, tension, restlessness, confusion, and irritability. Numbness, tingling of the extremities, loss of identity, hallucinations, delirium, convulsions, shock, and cardiovascular collapse also may occur. Withdrawal seizures can occur a week or more after cessation of use. As with other benzodiazepines, treatment for flunitrazepam dependence must be gradual, with use tapering off.

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Other Sources of information

Local organisations that offer Assessment & Treatment options for people with addictions:

SMART – Substance Misuse Assessment & Referral Team Poole - Tel 01202 735777
BEAT – Bournemouth Engagement and Assessment Team - Tel 01202 558855
YADAS – Tel 01202 741414 www.edasuk.org/treatment/poole/poole-yadas/
REACH YP – Tel 0800 0434656 www.edasuk.org/treatment/dorset/sh/
ADDACTION – Tel 01202 558855 www.addaction.org.uk
EDP – Tel 01305 571264 - email info@edp.org.uk

National organisations that offer treatment, advice, information & support for people with addictions:

Alcohol Change – Tel 020 3907 8480 www.alcoholchange.org.uk/
FRANK – Tel 0300 1236600 Text 82111 www.talktofrank.com/

Contact us: Helpline 01202 733322 (Weekdays 8.30am to 4.30pm, 24-hour answer phone)
Email: admin@edasuk.org
EDAS Head Office - 56 Ashley Road, Parkstone, Poole BH14 9BN

Statement
Our information and research is designed to help you make informed choices about the services that we provide. From time to time, for illustrative purposes, we may make reference to commonly available products (such as relaxation CDs and popular self-help books). We do not endorse or advertise the use of any specific product.

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