

Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault

“Date Rape Drugs” - What You Need To Know About Them

Date rape drugs are a growing concern on campuses across the country. Rohypnol, GHB, and Ketamine have gained notoriety as drugs used to facilitate sexual assault. Many of these “club drugs” are used recreationally, by choice, at bars, raves, or other dance parties. Unfortunately, they have also been used by perpetrators of sexual assault at an increasing rate. These drugs are often used to facilitate sexual assault because they mimic severe intoxication and can quickly incapacitate an individual, making them unable to consent, or escape from a dangerous situation. It is difficult to determine when these drugs are used in sexual assaults because they metabolize in the body quickly and therefore don’t show up on a blood or urine test. Moreover, they induce memory loss, which makes it difficult for the victim to recall details of the assault. The use of drugs to incapacitate an individual and complete assault is illegal and can be prosecuted as felony assault.

Rohypnol

It is a potent (10x more potent than Valium) tranquilizer which produces a sedative affect, amnesia, muscle relaxation, and slowing of psychomotor response. Usually found in pill form, production and distribution of Rohypnol is legal in many countries. For instance, it is frequently prescribed in Europe as a sleep aid. Therefore, Rohypnol may be a bigger threat in international areas, where students tend to travel for Spring Break. However, Rohypnol is often brought back to the US by people who have traveled to other countries.

Rohypnol takes effect approximately 10-20 minutes after ingestion. Rohypnol used to be difficult to detect in a beverage, but recently the manufacturers added a dye that turns light drinks bright blue and darker drinks murky. Rohypnol can be added to any liquid (effect lasting 2-8 hours), but when added to alcohol it produces disinhibition and amnesia (effect lasting 8-24 hours). Rohypnol can be detected in the blood for 24 hours and in the urine for 48 hours. Some individuals use Rohypnol as an alcohol extender for a rapid and dramatic high. This is something to watch for in social settings if individuals seem extremely intoxicated after consuming only a small amount of alcohol. Hoffman-La Roche™ has reportedly changed the formula to slow the dissolving process.

Street Names include:

- Roofies
- Rope
- Ruffies
- R2
- Ruffles
- RocheForget-pill

GHB

It is an odorless, colorless, liquid depressant with anesthetic qualities, used mostly by young adults at clubs, raves or dance parties. GHB is usually distributed as a liquid, but can also be a sodium salt in powder or tablet form commonly dissolved in water. People who have used this drug report it gives a feeling of relaxation, tranquility, and increased sex drive, but also describe being “really drunk,” and experience confusion, intense sleepiness, dizziness, weakness, memory loss, headaches, hallucinations, and vomiting. The drug takes effect 10-15 minutes after ingestion and lasts 2-3 hours unless combined with alcohol, where the effect may last 20-30 hours. Large doses can induce sudden sleep within 5-10 minutes.

Street Names include:

- Liquid G
- Bodily Harm
- G
- Grievous
- Liquid X
- Scoop
- Easy Lay

Ketamine

Ketamine is a powerful anesthetic used as an animal tranquilizer. It is available in liquid or powder form, and is frequently used recreationally as a “club drug.” Because it is colorless, tasteless, and odorless it is frequently used to facilitate sexual assault. Ketamine causes hallucinations, amnesia and dissociation (a feeling where the mind seems separated from the body, sometimes called a ‘K-hole’). Ketamine can also cause weakness and difficulty with motor functions.

Street Names include:

- K
- Special K
- Vitamin K
- Ket
- Vet Valium
- Jet

To Decrease Risk

- Watch out for friends who seem more intoxicated than the amount of alcohol would warrant.
- Be aware that these drugs exist and are used on this campus.
- Never accept a drink from someone you don't know and trust.
- If you hear someone talking or "kidding" about these drugs, pay attention and if possible, challenge their behavior, letting them know you do not think it's cool to use or joke about using drugs to incapacitate someone. You may want to leave that party or individual and report their alleged behavior to the appropriate authorities.
- Don't leave your drink unattended when you are out in social settings.

If a person suspects he/she has been drugged, they should seek medical assistance. If an assault has occurred, you should not have to pay for any drug testing or treatment, as it will be covered under the Sexual Assault Victim's Access Justice Act. However, if there has been no assault, but you would like testing, you may have to pay for it yourself. Talk with your healthcare provider to find out what your best option would be.

If you would like to consider **Personal Counseling** please contact:

Annamaria Silveri, PhD (313) 993-1459

Rachel Bennett, LMSW (313) 993-1170

If you would like to make an appointment with the **Health Clinic** please contact:

Olga Parfenov, FNP-BC (313) 993-1185

In case of **Emergency** contact:

UDM Public Safety (313) 993-1123 or 911

or

Henry Ford Hospital Emergency Room – 2799 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202
