

ROHYPNOL & GHB

Rohypnol and GHB are predominantly central nervous system depressants. Because they are often colorless, tasteless and odorless, they can be added to beverages and ingested unknowingly.

Rohypnol

Rohypnol, a trade name for flunitrazepam, belongs to a class of drugs known as benzodiazepines. 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 so it is used illegally and is known as ***rophies, roofies, roach,*** and ***rope.***

GHB

Since about 1990, GHB (gamma hydroxybutyrate) has been abused for its euphoric, sedative, and anabolic (body building) effects. It is a central nervous system depressant that was widely available over-the-counter in health food stores during the 1980s and until 1992. It was purchased largely by body builders to aid in fat reduction and muscle building. Street names include ***liquid ecstasy, soap, easy lay, vita-G,*** and ***Georgia home boy.***

Coma and seizures can occur following abuse of GHB. Combining abuse of GHB with other drugs such as alcohol can result in nausea and breathing difficulties. GHB may also produce withdrawal effects, including insomnia, anxiety, tremors, and sweating. GHB and two of its precursors GBL and BD, have been involved in poisonings, overdoses, date rapes, and deaths.