

Research Journal of Pharmaceutical, Biological and Chemical Sciences

The Date Rape Predator Drug: Rohypnol.

Shashank Tiwari*

Senior Scientist, Department of Pharmacy, Integrated Biotechnological Research Institute, Lucknow, UP, India.

ABSTRACT

This Paper is based on the Rohypnol drug, which is known as the Date Rape drug or also Predator drug. The main role of this drug is the treatment of insomnia, as a pre-medication in surgical procedures and for including anaesthesia but the drug is widely abused for sexual assault and rape. The Rohypnol is ban in United State and not available legally, it also not approved for medical treatment used in United State. Another name of Rohypnol is Flunitrazepam an intermediate-acting benzodiazepine with general properties like those of Diazepam.

Keywords- Rohypnol, Drug, Sexual, Predator, Rape.

**Corresponding author*

INTRODUCTION

Flunitrazepam or Rohypnol is a powerful sedative hypnotic or a central nervous system depressant drug. Rohypnol is the family member of benzodiazepine which include Valium and Xanax. It's about more than 10 times the capability of Valium. Flunitrazepam use began gaining fame in the United State in early 1990s but The Rohypnol is banned in United State and not available legally, it also not approved for medical treatment used in United State. Rohypnol is manufactured or Prepared by Hoffman-La Roche. Rohypnol is known as The Date Rape Predator Drug because the drug is infrequently given to heedless victims without their permission.

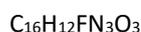


Figure 1: Prepared Drug by Roche

Properties of Drug

Tasteless, Colourless, purely soluble in liquid and dissolved under the tongue.

Chemical Formula



Chemical Structure

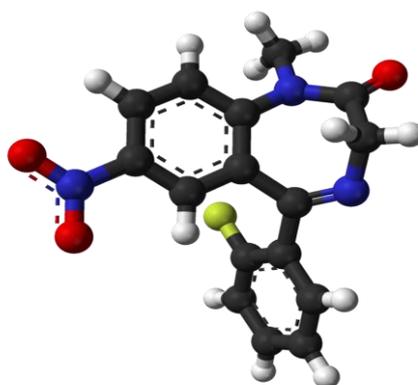


Figure 2: Chemical 3D Structure of Rohypnol

Uses of the Drug

The main use of the drug is the treatment of insomnia or sleeping medication, sedation, anti-anxiety, prevention of convulsions and muscle relaxation.

Abuses of Drug

Rohypnol is widely Abused for Sexual assault or Rape, which is any kind of sexual activity a person does not agree and the victim are unable to remember certain events that they experience while under the influence

of the drug, this is the reason behind the Rohypnol is called “Date Rape Drug”. Rohypnol is commonly found at rave parties and night clubs. Two major range of rohypnol users. The primary users adult predators who quest their victims in nightclubs, that’s why it’s also called “Club Drug” and the secondary users includes College and high school students who are quickly adopting rohypnol as their drug of choice. The Rohypnol has become famous with teenage groups. The teenage groups continuously required for group initiation. Additionally the young girls who attends group parties often willingly ingest Rohypnol, and are then rape by multiple persons after they pass out. Rohypnol is also boost the high of heroin and harmonize the effect of cocaine.

Methods of Abuse

In few matter the victim may first be given marijuana in the form of citrate to smoke, after smoke the victim makes thirsty or the victim is thirsty by any reason like feeling hot in summer, tired or take other drinks such as tea, cold drink, juice, coffee, alcohol etc. and then predator dropped the Rohypnol in liquid, because the drug is dissolved rapidly, tasteless, odourless and colourless. The predator also mixed Rohypnol in snacks or foods by crushed and shorten or powder form.

The Victim feel the effect within 10 minutes, although the complete effect does not hit her for at least an hour.



Figure 3: Predator dropped the Rohypnol in Liquid

Unique Characteristic

The peerless specialty of the Rohypnol is the loss of the memory suffered by the victim. This is the one of the most arduous phase of prosecuting a Rohypnol rape case.

In Addition, the drug remain in the victims urine in a measurable amount for only three days, which is simply enough time for a drugged victim Calm up and contact the police.

Street Names

The Rohypnol Drugs known as many local or street names such as Club Drug, Date Rape Drug, Predator Drug, Forget Pill, Circles, Lunch Money Drug, Forget-Me-Pill, R2, La Rocha, Row-Shay, Wolfies, Roopies, Rochas Dos, Roach, Reynolds, Pingus, Valium, Mexican Valium, Rophies, Roache Vitamins, Che, Rope etc.

Route of Administration

The Most common rout of administration is oral and sometimes the abusers dissolved the tablet and inject.

Dose

The Rohypnol drugs came out in solid dosage form tablet in dose of one and two milligrams.



Figure 4: Open Tablet of Rohypnol 2mg Drug manufactured by Roche

Adverse Effect of Rohypnol

The Adverse effect of rohypnol is depend upon the physical and psychological condition. The Rohypnol is reducing the quality of sleeping and the result is somnolence, Vomiting, sedation, slurred speech, headache, tension, restlessness, confusion, spasm, muscles pain, irritability extreme anxiety and overdose of the drug resulting loss of identity and respiratory depression. The Short Term effect is decreasing blood pressure, amnesia, difficulty in talking, impaired judgement, nightmare and the long term effect is numbness, shock and cardiovascular collapse also may occur.

History of Rohypnol

The swiss Pharmaceutical Company Hoffman-La Roche first develop and formulate them as the family of benzodiazepine in 1950s. The work led by Leo Sternbach and the patent was filed in 1962 and it was first marketed batch in 1974. After marketed batch due to misuse of the rohypnol drug the Roche modified the formulation and give the very low dose with less soluble and added the blue colour. The Rohypnol never marketed in United State and by 2016 has been banned form the marketed in France, United Kingdom, Spain and Germany.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author would like to thank all his mentors. The notes compiled here are collected over a period of time and may have been reproduced verbatim. Apologize to all researchers if in-advertently failed to acknowledge them in the references.

REFERENCES

- [1] Drug Fact Sheet "Rohypnol", Drug Enforcement Administration, retrieved form DEA website www.dea.gov.
- [2] Flunitrazepam, retrieved form Wikipedia website <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flunitrazepam>
- [3] Date Rape Drug, retrieved form Wikipedia website https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Date_rape_drug
- [4] Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration. Just the Facts: What is Rohypnol? An educational fact sheet form the Florida Alcohol & Drug abuse association, retrieved form www.fadaa.org
- [5] Narcotic Educational Foundation of America, Drug Abuse Education Provider of the: California Narcotic Officers Association, Rohypnol: "The Date Rape Drug" retrieved form www.cnoa.org
- [6] Drug Facts, Club Drugs, National Institute on Drug Abuse, December 2014, retrieved form www.drugabuse.gov



- [7] Calhoun, Sarah R.; Wesson, Donald R.; Galloway, Gantt P.; and David E. Smith. 1996. Abuse of Flunitrazepan (Rohypnol) and other Benzodiazepines in Austin and South Texas. *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs* 28(2):183-189.
- [8] DEA Resources For Law Enforcement Officers Intelligence Reports. Flunitrazepam (Rohypnol): "Roofies."
- [9] Saum, Christine A. and James A. Inciardi. 1997. Rohypnol Misuse in the United States. *Substance Use & Misuse* 32(6):723-73; Lloyd, Jennifer. 2002.
- [10] NIDA InfoFacts. Rohypnol and GHB; Greater Dallas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. Rohypnol. Retrieved from <http://www.gdcada.org/>