

SUMMER 2012

Forget It

♥2 Love My Lips

REVEALED:

A DRUG THAT WILL
KNOCK YOU OUT!

Rohypnol and
Its Effects

DATE RAPE DRUG:
ROHYPNOL

LOVE-DEATH-MONEY

FLUNITRAZEPAM

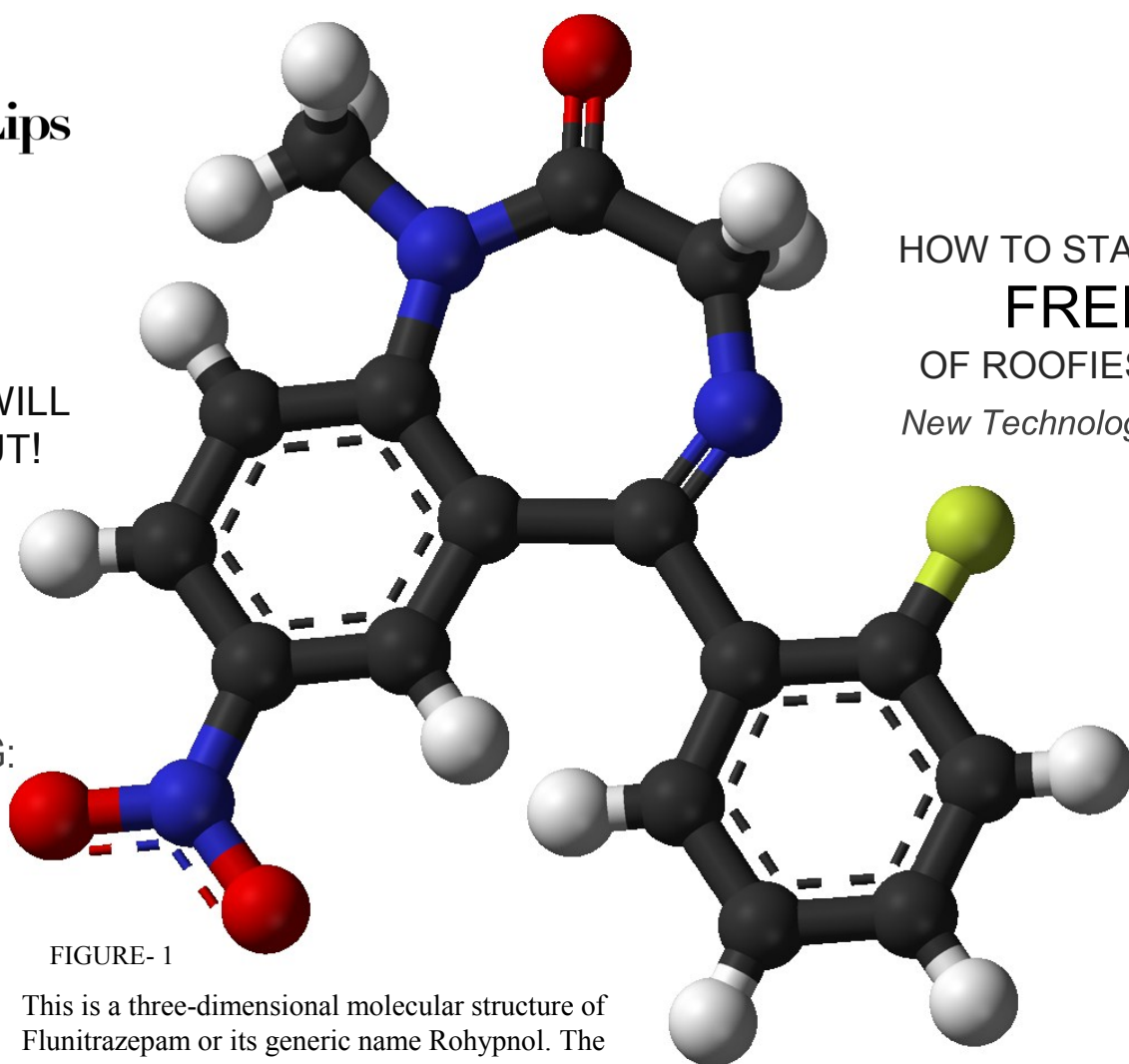


FIGURE- 1

This is a three-dimensional molecular structure of Flunitrazepam or its generic name Rohypnol. The molecular structure of Rohypnol is $C_{16}H_{12}FN_3O_3$. Its unique structure makes it able to knock out its consumers.

HOW TO STAY
FREE
OF ROOFIES:
New Technology



Look Gorgeous, Stay Safe.

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FIGURE- 2

What are 2 Love My Lips Detectors?



How Does It Work?



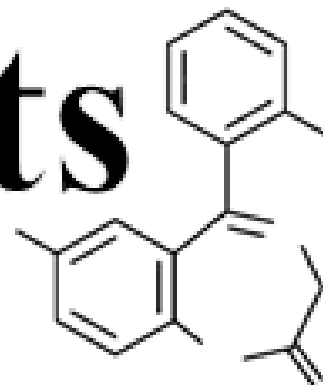
Each 2 Love My Lips lip-gloss comes with two spike detector kits. The 2 Love My Lips Detector is created to identify the presence of common date rape drugs including Gamma Hydroxyl Butyrate (GHB), Ketamine, Cocaine, Heroin, and Amphetamines in drinks that were spiked. However, 2 Love My Lips Detector **DOES NOT** detect the presence of Rohypnol. Research is being conducted to add this dangerous date rape drug to the list of detections (2 LOVE MY LIPS IS EVERY GIRLS HANDBAG MUST HAVE 2011).

Test drinks in a lighted area. Each card has two tests; each containing two test spots. Place a sample of your drink on both test spots at the end of the strip. Smear each drop gently over the circle, but **DO NOT MIX** the chemicals from the spots together. Wait until completely dry. If either spot turns dark blue (as shown above in the negative) your drink has been spiked (2 LOVE MY LIPS IS EVERY GIRLS HANDBAG MUST HAVE 2011).

THE RESULTS OF THE DRINK SPIKE DETECTOR ARE FOR PERSONAL USE AND INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY. THE SUPPLIER CANNOT TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONSEQUENCES OF OR ACTIONS TAKEN AS A RESULT OF A POSITIVE TEST.

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VOL. I, NO. 1 SUMMER 2012



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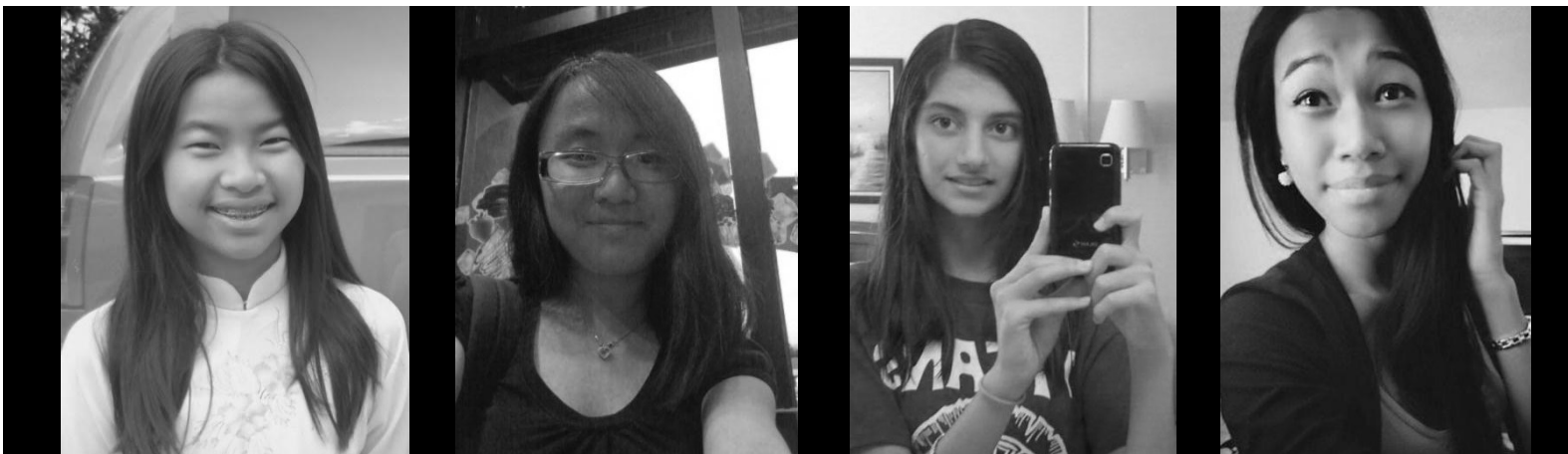
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FORGET IT MISSION STATEMENT

The Forget It Corporation is an organization to raise awareness of the Date Rape Drug called Rohypnol through the publication of the *Forget It Magazine*. Our first magazine issue was published in SUMMER 2012. In social clubs, sex offenders would use the drug Rohypnol to make victims unconscious. We, The Forget It Corporation, are trying to prevent people from becoming victims by increasing the knowledge of Rohypnol and raise awareness of the dangers of using the drug. The founders of *Forget It* created this magazine to inform and prevent the use of this illegal drug. The magazine name *Forget It* is a common street name of Rohypnol; ironically the title was given so that this drug should be forgotten, but instead to always be aware of this drug and its dangers.

FOUNDERS



Alyssa Nguyen - My Nguyen - Monica Nyland - Salina Som



THE USE OF ROHYPNOL

By: Alyssa Nguyen

What is the Common and Chemical Name of Rohypnol?

Rohypnol is a drug commonly known as the date rape drug, forget-me drug, forget it, forget pill, roches, , circles, La rocha, lunch money drug, Mexican valium, Pingus, R-2, Reynolds, Roach-2, Roaches, Roachies, Roapies, Robutal, Rochas dos, Rope, Rophis, Rophy, Ropies, Roples, Row-shay, Ruffies, trip-and-fall, mind-eraser, roofenol, rophies, roofies, and Wolfies (National Drug Intelligence Center, 2003). Scientifically, Rohypnol is known as Flunitrazepam in chemical terms.

What are the Typical Uses of Rohypnol?

Rohypnol is commonly used in clubs; sex offenders place the odorless and colorless drug into victim's drinks. Victims are often unaware that the drug is in the drink because Rohypnol dissolves easily and is difficult to detect. Sex offenders use this drug on their victim to give them an amnesiac effect, causing for the victim to be unconscious. Because of the

result of the victim being unconscious, the attacker would sexually assault the victim. In addition to using this drug to victimize a human being, Rohypnol is also used to lessen depression and is similar to other illegal drugs such as cocaine and methamphetamine (Rohypnol).

FIGURE- 3

ROHYPNOL PILLS



Medical Uses of Rohypnol:

Although this drug is illegal in the United States, many

This is a bottle containing 1mg of Flunitrazepam caplets. This is what is usually prescribed countries outside the U.S.

other countries use Rohypnol for several medical purposes. It is prescribed to treat insomnia because its strong effect would cause for an individual to sleep (Rohypnol). Doctors in other countries also use Rohypnol as a pre-anesthetic for surgery to make them unconscious causing numbness.

FIGURE- 4

ROHYPNOL PILLS



This is an example of a caplet of Rohypnol. This form is olive green with a blue center to change the colors when dissolved in a liquid. It is imprinted with the number 542.

Forms of Rohypnol:

- *Caplet:* Rohypnol is illegal in the United States. However, the drug is permitted in Asia, South



America, Europe, and parts of North America (Mexico). The caplets are light green and have a blue center, resulting for a clear fluid to be easily identified that it was tampered with because the color of the drink would change from the blue center. On the contrary, color change would be scarcely noticeable in dark fluids (Rohypnol).

- *Tablets:* They are small and round white tablets that are easily soluble in alcoholic drinks and non-alcoholic beverages – Most commonly used in this form because it is odorless and tasteless.
- *Powder:* Young adults would try to mimic the feeling of cocaine or other drugs by crushing the tablets to

FIGURE- 5

ROHYPNOL *Powder and Liquid*



Rohypnol can be also found in the form of a powder and liquid. The powder form can be snorted and the liquid form can be injected.

- create a powdery substance. The powder is usually snorted.
- *Injection:* Abusers would dissolve Rohypnol tablets to produce a liquid substance, allowing for the solution to be injected into the abuser.



Drink Coasters Detect Rohypnol

By: Alyssa Nguyen

In some cases, offenders spike the drinks to unaware victims. One of the drugs that they would be used to spike the drinks would be Rohypnol. Rohypnol is a colorless and odorless substance that dissolves easily in liquids, such as drinks and alcoholic beverages. To prevent being a victim of having their drinks spiked, Scientists have developed drink coasters that would detect the drugs in their drinks (Villalon 2011).

CHEMICAL STRUCTURE OF FLUNITRAZEPAM

{By: Alyssa Nguyen}

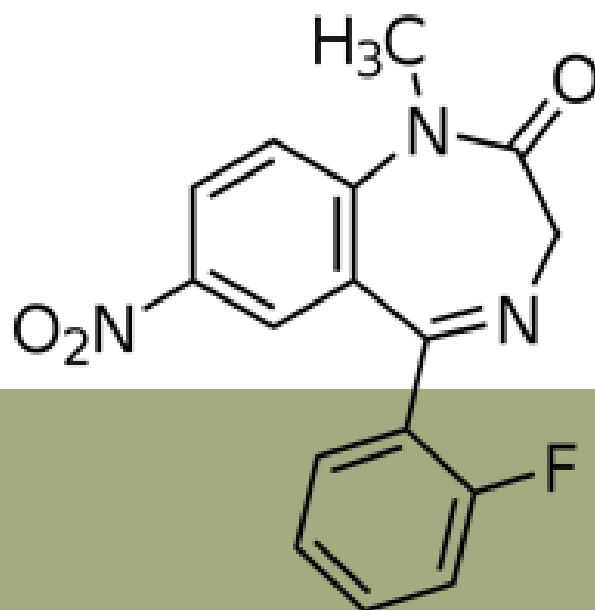
The main component of flunitrazepam is benzodiazepine¹. This chemical is comprised of a significant core structure of an intertwining of benzene and diazepine ring system called heterocyclic ring system.

Diazepine, a fragment combined with benzenes in benzodiazepine, is a heterocyclic compound. It also contains two nitrogen atoms and five carbon atoms. A 1,4-diazepine is the type of diazepine that's substituted for flunitrazepam.

Flunitrazepam is identified because of the existence of a fluoro group connected to a

FIGURE- 7

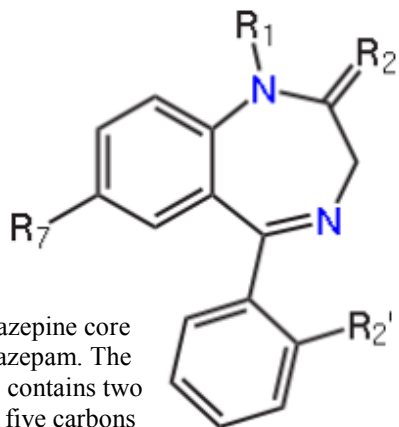
FLUNITRAZEPAM



This is the chemical structure of the drug Flunitrazepam. The molecular formula of the drug is $C_{16}H_{12}FN_3O_3$. The drug's structure makes it effective as a sleeping inducer.

FIGURE- 6

BENZODIAZEPINE core structure



This is the benzodiazepine core structure of Flunitrazepam. The molecular structure contains two nitrogen atoms and five carbons atoms.

¹ Benzodiazepine is any of a family of minor tranquilizers that act against anxiety and convulsions and produce sedation and muscle relaxation.

carbon atom on a benzene ring (Xiao, 2010). The fluorine atom causes for the strong effects of flunitrazepam because the fluorine atom is small and has a high electronegativity; causing for the improvement of the metabolic stability of the drug and enhances membrane permeation² (Xiao, 2010). Therefore, the binding of the drug would be more successfully to the benzodiazepine binding

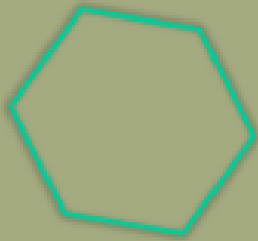
² Permeation is to pass through or cause to pass through by osmosis or diffusion.

site on the drug's target protein.

Flunitrazepam's target protein subsequently heightens the efficiency of the drug's effects and causes the drug to become stronger and more concentrated.

A portion of the strength of flunitrazepam is the methyl group. It is connected to the

nitrogen atom on the diazepine. Because of the properties of the methyl group, flunitrazepam is highly soluble in lipid solutions and insoluble in water. This means that flunitrazepam is easily absorbed into biological membranes. On the contrary, it does not respond when released into an aqueous solution (Xiao, 2010).



The tamper proof concept was devised by John Blundell after his 25 year old son was found unconscious from having his drink spiked. "He's a strapping lad so if these date rape drugs can knock him unconscious it can happen to anyone" (ToppaStoppa).

The Topp Stoppa is a tamper proof device used to prevent drink spiking in bottled drinks. The only way for your drink to get spiked is the drinks unattended with the Topp Stoppa attached, if someone removes the safety ring pull, the drinker is aware that it has been tampered (ToppaStoppa).

Death – Love – Money: My Nguyen

"This man died for love"

- Brazilian detective, Waldomiro Bueno Filho



FIGURE- 8

Regina Rachid



Regina Rachid is 40 years old and from Brazil. She is currently being convicted of the murder of Raymond Merrill.

Raymond Merrill, a 46-year-old carpenter who lived in San Francisco, thought he found the love of his life when he met Regina Rachid, a 40-year-old beauty who lives in Brazil, online.

However, little did he know that she was actually his grim reaper; not his beloved angel.

After a year of flirtatious E-mails, ardor phone calls of everlasting love, and two visits to Brazil, he decided she was the one. But his third trip, in March, marked the end of his love story as well as his life journey. He was held captive for six days by Regina and her ex-boyfriend, Nelson Neves, before they hired Evandro Ribeiro to finish off the business.

Raymond was subdued with Rohypnol, strangled, and set on fire.

His charred body was found near the town of Cacapava, when his worried sister, Marcia Sanchez-Loebick, reported the case in May. Meanwhile Marcia was aghast by her brother's murder, the Brazilian police and FBI caught Regina and her complicity in a robbery attempt, where she dropped her purse and Raymond's credit was found.

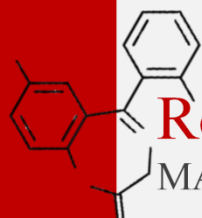
Regina is being charged for robbery, but denied having anything to do with Raymond's murder. Nonetheless, the motive is crystal clear: money. He had already bought her a new SUV, helped pay her daughter's tuition, spent \$10,000 to legalize her Botox clinic, and gave her extra cash to use (Sandra). But she wanted more, thus ended in his tragic death and soon, it will be her appalling experience in jail.

FIGURE- 9

Raymond Merrill



Raymond Merrill is the victim of murder involving the use of Rohypnol.



Rohypnol: THE MAN-MADE DRUG

By: SALINA SOM

Rohypnol is the brand name of flunitrazepam; a man-made³ drug that belongs to the class of drugs called the benzodiazepines. Benzodiazepine is any heterocyclic organic compound of a family of minor tranquilizers that act against anxiety and convulsions⁴ and produces sedation⁵ and muscle relaxation. Rohypnol is stronger than other benzodiazepines, such as triazolam (Halcion) alprazolam (Xanax/Niravam), bromazepam chlordiazepoxide (Librium), lorazepam (Ativan), and diazepam (Valium). These benzodiazepines are all legal and available for prescription in the United States (U.S.) (Flunitrazepam (Rohypnol) | CESAR). Rohypnol is about ten times more potent than Valium or diazepam.

Flunitrazepam was original synthesized by the Switzerland Pharmaceutical Company of

³ Produced artificially; not resulting from natural processes.

⁴ Convulsion is the contortion of the body caused by violent, involuntary muscular contractions of the extremities, trunk, and head.

⁵ Sedation is the calming of mental excitement or abatement of physiological function, especially by the administration of a drug.

FIGURE- 10

Rohypnol (2mg flunitrazepam)



Rohypnol is a man-made drug that is synthesized in a lab. This is a 2 mg dose tablet of Rohypnol manufactured by Hoffmann–La Roche. Hoffmann–La Roche has phased out this dosage of Rohypnol.

Hoffmann–La Roche in 1972. The drug was marketed and sold in 1975 under the name Rohypnol. Rohypnol's anticipated usage was for deep sedation; though it is now primarily prescribed for short-term treatment of severe insomnia⁶ outside the U.S.

FIGURE- 11

Drug Packing Machine



A pharmaceutical worker is operating a drug-packaging machine.

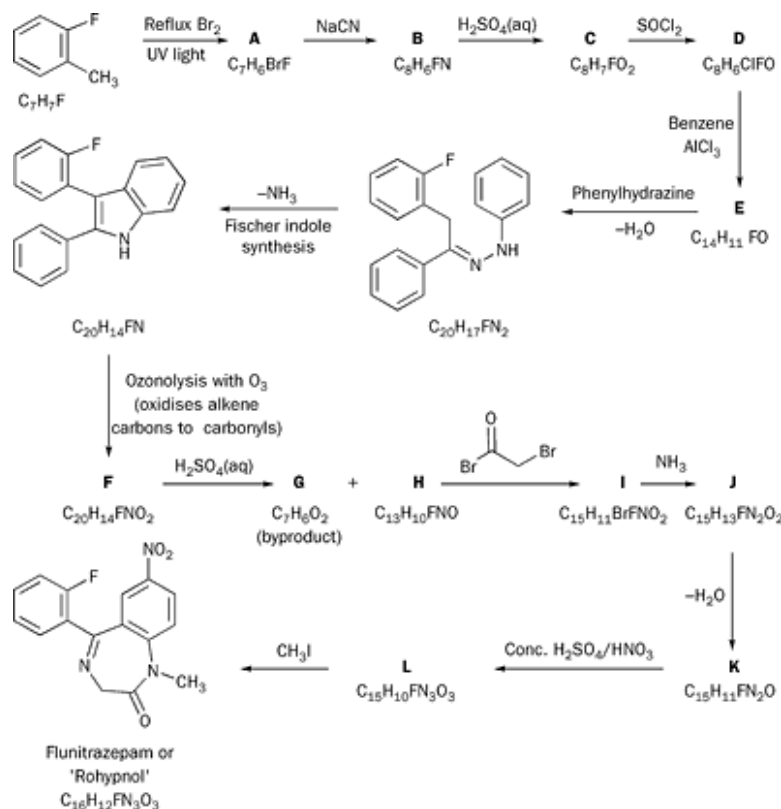
⁶ Insomnia is the chronic inability to fall asleep or remain asleep for an adequate length of time.

The steps to synthesis Rohypnol include radical halogenation⁷, the nucleophilic⁸ substitution of bromide by cyanide, the hydrolysis⁹ of a nitrile (cyanide) to give an acid, the formation of an acid chloride using thionyl chloride, a Friedel-Crafts reaction¹⁰ and phenylhydrazide formation. These reactions form the first half of the synthesis. The synthesis then continues with an ozonolysis¹¹ to form an amide¹². The amide is hydrolyzed to give an amine and reacts with an acid bromide to form a new amide. After the substitution of a bromide by ammonia, a condensation reaction yields the tricyclic skeleton precursor¹³ of the desired product. The final steps are a classic

aromatic nitration¹⁴ and the methylation of a secondary amine (The Chemistry Olympiad 2005).

FIGURE- 12

ROHYPNOL SYNTHESIS PROCESS



⁷ Halogenation is to introduce a halogen into (an organic compound); in this case bromide.

⁸ Nucleophilic's of or pertaining to electron contribution in covalent bonding.

⁹ Hydrolysis is the breaking down of a chemical compound into two or more simpler compounds by reacting with water.

¹⁰ Friedel-Crafts reaction is a reaction for the synthesis of hydrocarbons and ketones by the alkylation or acylation of an aromatic compound in the presence of a catalyst, typically anhydrous aluminum chloride.

¹¹ Ozonolysis is the process of treating an organic compound with ozone to form an ozonide: used to locate double bonds in molecules.

¹² Amide is an organic compound formed from ammonia by replacing a hydrogen atom by an acyl group.

¹³ Precursor a chemical that is transformed into another compound, as in the course of a chemical reaction, and therefore precedes that compound in the synthetic pathway

The process of synthesizing Rohypnol begins with radical halogenation to give an acid. Next are the Friedel-Crafts reaction and then the phenylhydrazide formation. Continuing with ozonolysis to form an amide; that is hydrolyzed to form an amine. Substituting bromide by ammonia and a condensation reaction yields the tricyclic skeleton precursor.

¹⁴ Nitration is a general chemical process for the introduction of a nitro group into a chemical compound



Infamously Significant Illegal Drug

By: Salina Som

In 1975, Flunitrazepam was

released by Hoffman La

Roche Pharmaceutical

under the brand name of Rohypnol. By the late 1970's recreational misuse of Rohypnol was seen in Europe. In 1983, Flunitrazepam is placed under Schedule IV in the United States (U.S.), making the drug illegal to buy, sell, or possess without a prescription, but it wasn't approved for sale in the U.S. by the Food and Drug Administration¹⁵ (FDA).

From 1990 to 1996, Flunitrazepam is imported into the United States; both legally and illegally. From this point on the drug begins to gain reputation for being used as the date rape drug. In 1996, the FDA bans all importation of Flunitrazepam (Rohypnol) into the United States. Illegal importation of Flunitrazepam into the United States continues, especially in the southern states (Erowid).

Turned On?



In the mid 1990's, Rohypnol often began being referred to as the date rape drug

¹⁵ The FDA is a division of the Department of Health and Human Services that protects the public against impure and unsafe foods, drugs, and cosmetics.

FIGURE- 13

Rohypnol (1mg flunitrazepam)



This is a 1 mg Rohypnol dose tablet. On the streets, Rohypnol is sold in its original packaging like above.

because it is commonly used in sexual assault and rape.

The drug is famously known to be taken at locations such as night clubs and bars.

Perpetrators slip the drug into the victim's drinks, or often

referred to as spiking. Rohypnol is easily dissolved into the victim's drink undetected. The victim who has consumed the spiked drink will appear to display symptoms of an intoxicated person. This makes the perpetrator look less suspicious moving the victim to another location while appearing as helping an intoxicated friend (The Date Rape Drug).

Also this drug has become popular because of its effectiveness. The drug takes approximately 15-30 minutes after consumption to take effect. Some effects include impaired memory and judgment, drowsiness, dizziness, and confusion; making the victim literally unable to fight back against the perpetrator. The drug can last up to 10 hours; this can last longer if the drug is combined with alcohol or another drug. When the victim gains consciousness, they usually can't remember what has happened. This is one reason why the Rohypnol is used; it makes getting away

with the crime easier since the victim can't recall what has happened with the past few hours (O'Connell).

The drug has especially become famous with adolescents and young adults. The reason adolescents, high school students get turned on to this drug is mainly due to the low cost. Adolescents and young adults use the drug as an alcohol extender in an attempt to create a dramatic "high", most often in combination with beer. The drug's use has increased in southern and southwestern states; especially in Florida and Texas (Rape and Sexual Abuse Survivors Message Board and Chat Room -After Silence -Rohypnol-).

FIGURE- 14

Rohypnol (*Adolescents*)



Young people think they can take Rohypnol, drive and avoid being arrested for driving under the influence. Drugs impair one's vision substantially; making it difficult to walk a straight line.

Cost On Current Market



Rohypnol is illegally smuggled into the United States and sold on the streets or in clubs. Users often assume the drug is safe because it comes in its original manufacturer's packaging and appears like other drugs prescribed. On the current market Rohypnol ranges from 2-5 dollars per dosage; though the drug can be sold for 10-30 dollars per dosage (Rohypnol (Flunitrazepam)).



Afford the Habit

People who do this drug can usually afford this drug since it is at a relatively low cost per dosage. Also it is quite easy to get the drug; most time Rohypnol is illegally smuggled across the border either from Canada or Mexico. The easy access and low price make this drug affordable for the penetrator to continue using it. Rohypnol is legally prescribed as a sleeping aid outside the United States (Rohypnol).

Rohypnol and Its Effects

By: My Nguyen

Who uses Rohypnol?

Rohypnol (roh-HIP-nahl) is a tasteless, odorless, and colorless type of benzodiazepine depressant. Rohypnol assists with treating anxiety and decreasing brain activity, which allows for the body to rest. Due to its ability to bring on sleep, relax muscles, ease anxiety, and reduce the severity of seizure conditions, it is approved to primarily be used as a sleeping aid in about sixty countries, including Europe, Mexico, South America and Asia. However, possession and usage of this drug is illegal in the United States as it is linked to many crimes, especially rapes and robbery (Bigelow).

Sexual Predator and Robbers

In fact, this soporific substance attracts sexual predators and robbers predominantly because it quickly incapacitates the target within fifteen minutes of consumption and can last up to eighteen hours. The side effects of this drug, such as being

physically weakened and amnesia, also contributed to the usage of Rohypnol in drug-facilitated rape cases and theft. In addition, with the victim not being able to remember the crime incident or the identity of the attacker due to amnesia, made it more difficult to find and prosecute the predator (Bigelow).

Club-goers

Similar to most recreational drugs, Rohypnol are used by club-goers to enhance their experiences at parties, festivals, and raves. In these crowded places, Rohypnol can help break down social inhibitions; thus resulted in more interactions with other strangers (Bigelow). This comes with the risk of having your drink spiked and you will most likely end up in a hostile situation.

Abusers

Rohypnol is often mixed with other drugs in alcohol beverages to lengthen the time of being “high.” This increases the risk of side effects and in worst case scenario, will result in death. Most of these abusers are heroin, cocaine, and methadone addicts. Also, it should be noted that two-third of these users are male (Bigelow 116-117).

FIGURE- 15

Rohypnol and Alcohol



Sexual predators are attracted to Rohypnol and often mix it with alcohol. In a short period of time the drug incapacitates the victim.



Short and Long Term Side Effects

Needless to say, all drugs have some sort of short and long term side effects. For Rohypnol the short term side effects include:

- Amnesia
- Sedation of the body
- Nausea
- Breathing problems
- Seizure
- Disorientation
- Vomiting
- Slurred speech
- Headache
- Staggered walk
- Death
- Memory loss
- Dangerous heart rate levels

On the other hand, its long term side effects consist of:

- Tolerance and dependence on the drug
- Incompetent of general learning

These signs can be detected if the users need more of the substance to get the same effect; they find it's hard to be happy and have trouble sleeping without it; and they can't meet deadlines, complete assignments, or make it to class (Brown University).

Effects on Personality

Consequently, the usage of this additive drug can distort the user's personality. They will start to neglect old friends who don't use the drug and make new ones who do. They became more irresponsible and spend

money that they don't have, i.e. credit cards, to buy the drug. Besides this, they also develop mood swings and violent outburst of temper (Brown University).

To Stop Addiction and Withdrawal Symptoms

Fortunately, it is possible for a person who is addicted to stop using the drug. However, it is dangerous to suddenly withdraw; therefore it is recommended to consult a physician. The reason being is because the central nervous system is adapted to the drug's affect. Without the regular amount being received, the body will suffer from:

- Hallucination
- Muscular pain
- Headache
- Delirium
- Seizures
- Intense irritability
- Anxiety
- Tension
- Insomnia

The treatment programs will differ between inpatient and outpatient care depending on the severity of the addiction (Bigelow). But in general, the treatment last about 5 days of inpatient detoxification program with a 24-hour intensive medical care (DrugFacts 2010).



EFFECTS ON A DEVELOPING FETUS

BY: MY NGUYEN

During pregnancy, the mother should not drink alcohol, smoke, or taken any drugs because these substances can harm the baby.

In any case, if a benzodiazepine, such as Rohypnol, is taken during pregnancy it will cause withdrawal symptoms in the new-born. These symptoms include:



- Breathing problems
- Poor body temperature control
- Poor muscle tone
- Appear floppy or limp

However, the babies do eventually recover from these symptoms (Benzodiazepines and Pregnancy 2004).

Effects on Teenager

Rohypnol has the same effects on teenagers as it does with adults. After all, “teenagers and young adults...aged 13-30, are the



principal users of Rohypnol” (Lawton 77). The usage of Rohypnol in high school also poses as a problem due to the fact that “nearly two percent of high school seniors in the United States used Rohypnol at least once in the past year, according to the University of Michigan’s Monitoring the Future Survey (77).

Effects on Fertility, Deformity, and Child’s Health

Benzodiazepines do increase the likelihood of birth defects, and as Rohypnol is one of them, using this drug during pregnancy is not ideal; particularly because it may cause the child to become dependent on the drug as well as drowsiness, breathing problems, and a slower heart rate.

In addition, as a recap, Rohypnol is just a depressant that incapacitate the victim and puts them to sleep for hours. The side effects of amnesia further encourage criminals to use this drug. This drug is not meant to sterilize the woman; therefore it does not affect the woman’s fertility. (Jacqueline 613).

Is Rohypnol Addictive?

{By: Monica Nyland}

Rohypnol is highly addictive. In fact even after short time use, you may build up a physical and psychological dependence on it. Experts advise people not to go straight into a sudden withdrawal and instead to consult a physician. Sudden withdrawal is dangerous because the central nervous system has adapted to the drug's effects. It's important to seek medical help if you are addicted to Rohypnol because of the dangerous withdrawal symptoms (Rohypnol). These symptoms include:

- Headache and muscle pain
- Extreme anxiety, tension, restlessness, confusion, and irritability
- Numbness and tingling of the extremities
- Hallucinations, delirium, convulsions, seizures or shock
- Cardiovascular collapse which can be fatal (Rohypnol)

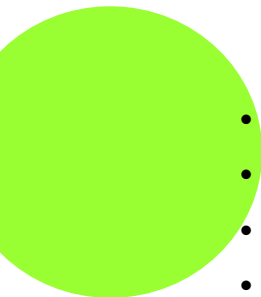
Why is it addictive?

Like with any drug, after excessive use, detoxification_Tolerance is most likely built up, which means you need more of the drug to get the same effect (Rohypnol Addiction treatment and Recovery From Abuse). Too much Rohypnol can lead to an overdose like any other potential drugs, but when combined with alcohol or any other drugs the effects can be fatal.

How is it treated?

Treatment for Rohypnol abuse or addiction depends upon several factors; including the age and gender of the patient, the length and severity of the patient's drug problems, and the presence of any co-occurring disorders.

There are inpatient and outpatient programs, depending on the severity of the addiction. Rohypnol treatment centers will usually start a program that lasts 3-5 days. This will be combined with 24-hour monitoring by medical professionals. Rohypnol therapy begins with cognitive behavior training. This means recognizing and training the behavior of the patient with regards to drug use (Rohypnol Addiction Recovery and Treatment). Other Rohypnol treatment programs involve individual and group counseling. Some treatments for Rohypnol abuse or addiction may include the following therapies and techniques:

- 
- Individual therapy
 - Group therapy
 - Family therapy
 - 12-Step education
 - Relapse-prevention instruction
 - Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)
 - Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT)
 - Biofeedback & Neuro-feedback
 - Medication management
 - Anger management
 - Hypnotherapy
 - Recreation therapy

(Rohypnol Addiction treatment and Recovery From Abuse)

Treatment programs exist that help users give up addictive substances. There are inpatient and outpatient programs, depending on the severity of the addiction.

How does it affect you?

Rohypnol affects the brain immediately, once it enters the body. Rohypnol takes effect within 20 to 30 minutes of administration and lasts up to eight hours. Rohypnol is intended to be used as a sedative and can make you extremely drowsy, resulting in severe memory loss and impaired motor skills. Rohypnol diminishes

your ability to make logical decisions which can lead to participation in risky behaviors you normally wouldn't consider (How Rohypnol Addiction Affects the Brain). It can also cause decreased blood pressure, drowsiness, visual disturbances, dizziness, confusion, gastrointestinal disturbances and urinary retention. If combined with alcohol, Rohypnol can increase the feeling of drunkenness and lower inhibitions.

Rohypnol rapidly enters the brain and works by binding to a specific type of protein (receptor), which is widely distributed in the groups of nerve cells involved in anxiety, memory, sedation and coordination. The normal role of these receptors is to respond to an abundant and important neurotransmitter called GABA (γ -amino butyric acid). When GABA activates its receptors they reduce nerve activity in the brain. Benzodiazepines bind tightly to a specific part of the GABA receptor, called the benzodiazepine site, which is distinct from the GABA binding site. When bound, benzodiazepines enhance the effect of GABA so they shut down brain activity more effectively, which broadens their spectrum of tranquillizing actions. (Philips and Fitzgerald)



Effects?

Many times Rohypnol is given to unwary victims (male or female) without their consent. The victim becomes physically incapacitated and his/her judgment becomes impaired. This makes the victims more vulnerable to assault and rape. Because of the memory loss and confusion under the influence of this drug, rape cases are difficult to prosecute (Date Rape Drugs: XTC, Rohypnol, ketamine).


Rohypnol is 10 times more potent than Valium and enters the bloodstream as quickly as 15 minutes after ingestion. A single 2-milligram pill has the same potency as a 6-pack of beer, but the effects differ slightly. Users can experience extreme sedation, dizziness, amnesia, muscle relaxation, the slowing of psychomotor performance, and loss of bodily control. Rohypnol causes an intoxication where users don't care about what they do or

cannot stop what happens to them. Users have great difficulty remembering what cannot remember what happened while they were under the influence of the drug; it wipes the memory clean. Sedation occurs within 15 to 30 minutes after ingestion of a 2-mg tablet, and lasts for approximately 8 to 18 hours. Those who ingest Rohypnol become extremely relaxed, and can lose bodily control (Rohypnol Addiction and Abuse).



Can people recover from this addiction?

Drug addiction is curable. However, even after successfully recovering from a period of abuse, addicts usually need support from others in order to stay off drugs for good. Many support groups offer “safe havens” for addicts to share stories of their struggles and meet others who are going through the same experience. Knowing that others are feeling the same way can help users gain the strength needed to fight their drug cravings (Rohypnol).



By: Monica Nyland

Rohypnol is legal in more than sixty countries but not in the United States. The manufacture, selling or smuggling of Rohypnol into the United States by mail or delivery is illegal

(Helmenstine). To be caught in possession of this illegal drug can result in conviction or having to pay a fine of \$30,000.

Why is it Illegal?

It is illegal to manufacture, sell, or use Rohypnol in the United States because taking it can produce physiological and psychological dependence and benzodiazepine¹⁶ withdrawal syndrome (Helmenstine). Also because of its rapid onset, sedating features, and effect on memory. Rohypnol affects the user rather

¹⁶ (ben-zoh-die-AZ-uh-peenz), a group of drugs used to treat anxiety.

quickly, within fifteen to twenty minutes, and the effects last anywhere from eight to eighteen hours. Because of its strength and its ability to stop memories from forming, Rohypnol when in the hands of criminals or anyone other than those medically certified can cause more harm than good. Rohypnol also is a depressant, which means it decreases activity in the brain and the rest of the body (Rohypnol Fast Facts).

The Problem of Smuggling

Although Rohypnol is not approved for use in the United States, it became popular as a low-cost recreational drug among some Americans in the 1990s. It is believed that Rohypnol made its first appearance in the United States in 1989, when it was brought in from South America to Florida. From that point on, the drug has been shipped into the United States through international mail or courier services from other countries, especially Colombia. People have even been known to cross the U.S. border into Mexico,

buy the drug at Mexican pharmacies, then bring it back to the United States. In response, the U.S. Customs Service began cracking down on the smuggling illegal import Rohypnol into the country.

Smuggling was highest in Texas and Florida. This action by U.S. Customs decreased the amount of Rohypnol being brought in to the country (Rohypnol).

Banned in the United States

In 1997, Rohypnol was officially banned in the United States, meaning that the distribution or use of the drug in any form was now illegal. In spite of the ban in the US, because Rohypnol is legal in South America, Mexico, Europe and Asia, it has always managed to make its way back into the United States (Rohypnol). Because the demand for Rohypnol during the 1900s outweighed the supply, dealers provided poor substitutes that were not made under the strict quality-control measures followed by the actual manufacturer of Rohypnol.

Therefore, the user could not be sure of the drug's effectiveness, purity, or safety. On top of the dangers of taking Rohypnol, if other drugs were included in the pill, ingesting the drug could lead to an overdose (Helmenstine).

Legal Ramifications

Those in the medical field who are caught in the act of selling Rohypnol tablets to the general public have had their pharmacies closed, lost their jobs and their license cancelled (Do *YOU* Know What You Did Last Night?). The U.S. Possession of Rohypnol is punishable by up to three years in prison and a fine of \$30,000. If convicted, they could face a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison (A Deadly Trip, 2000).

Rohypnol is a Schedule IV substance under the Controlled Substances Act. Schedule IV drugs are considered to have a lower potential for abuse but still can lead to limited physical or psychological

dependence. In 1997 the U. S. Sentencing Commission increased the penalties associated with the possession, trafficking, and distribution of Rohypnol to those of a Schedule I substance, schedule I is reserved for the most dangerous drugs that have no recognized medical use (Rohypnol).

Date Rape

Rohypnol is taken to enhance the sensations of sight, sound and the feelings that are felt. The popularity of Rohypnol is linked to its cost and availability. It is relatively inexpensive and easy to distribute and take without being noticed. Because Rohypnol is odorless and tasteless, once in a drink, it is virtually unnoticeable to the victim.

Rohypnol's ability to incapacitate a victim and wipe out hours of memories became very attractive to criminals like thieves and sexual predators. Thieves have used Rohypnol to knock out people so they could steal money and credit cards; while sexual predators could rape women without a fight

and could remain anonymous. A few years after Rohypnol was illegally introduced in the United States, a high number of sexual assaults were being reported in which the drug played a role in subduing the victim. Rape victims were reporting attacks that they didn't remember, but showed physical signs of enduring (Rohypnol).

This alerted the U.S. Congress's attention and resulted in the passing of the Drug-Induced Rape Prevention and Punishment Act of 1996. The act increased the penalties against criminals who use drugs in their attacks, distribute, or possess Rohypnol. A person who uses a drug in a sexual assault will receive harsher penalties, such as higher fines and longer prison terms to twenty years. Just possessing Rohypnol is punishable by 3 years in prison and a fine. In 1997, penalties for possessing and selling Rohypnol were stiffened even more to reflect the penalties of Schedule I drugs (Helmenstine).

Credits

2 Love My Lips *Adverstiment*
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The Use of Rohypnol *Article*
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Drink Coasters Detect Rohypnol
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Chemical Structure of Flunitrazepam
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Guide To Stay Roofie Free
– My Nguyen

ATTENTION by: My Nguyen

Rohypnol is known as a date rape drug or Roofies. However, it could also be used for other purposes, such as theft and in some rare cases, murder. Here are some advices for people to take caution:

- Never leave your drink unattended
- Favor sealed beverages over open container
- Pay attention to your bartender when having a mixed drink
- Don't accept drinks from acquaintances
- Never drink anything out of a common punch bowl
- Always have a friend when going out to parties, clubbing, and raves.

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“A drug
that will
knock you
out”

- Forget It



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