

# Rohypnol

**STREET NAMES:** The Date Rape Drug, Roofies, Rophies, and Roches.

## **WHAT IS IT?**

A fast acting sleeping pill. It is potent, tasteless, and undetectable when put in liquids until recently when blue and visible particles were added to increase awareness. Overdose is a potentially life threatening complication, especially since it is often combined with alcohol.

## **WHAT CAN HAPPEN TO YOUR BODY?**

### **AT FIRST:**

- Reduces anxiety.
- Induces sleep.
- Excessive intoxication.

### **OVER TIME:**

- Complete or partial amnesia.
- Rapid mood swings.
- Violent outbursts.

## **MEDICAL USES:**

Rohypnol was never approved for medical use in the U.S. It is used widely used throughout the rest of the world as a tranquilizer and treatment for insomnia. It is also used as a pre-operative sedative prior to surgery in many countries. Prior to 1996, individuals were permitted to bring back a personal supply when returning from other countries. This loophole was closed by the Drug-Induced Rape Prevention Act, which banned all possession of Rohypnol in the U.S.

## **DURATION:**

Effects begin 20-30 minutes after ingestion and typically continue for 8-12 hours.

## **TRENDS:**

Although Rohypnol has been a popular souvenir for Americans visiting Mexico, the ban reduced the frequency and amount of this drug being brought back to the U.S. In addition, the new detectible formulation of the drug has contributed to the significant decline of its use.