

DRUGS MOST COMMONLY USED TO FACILITATE SEXUAL ASSAULT

According to most state laws, a person who is unconscious (passed out), or incapacitated, whether from alcohol, drugs, or illness cannot give consent to sex. Therefore, if sexual contact occurs, it is sexual assault. As a rule never mix sex with alcohol or other drugs.

Alcohol is a depressant that impairs inhibitions, judgment and decision-making and is by far the most frequently used drug to facilitate sexual assault.

Effects of Alcohol: Vision can be blurred, speech slurred, coordination impaired and reflexes may become sluggish. Sensations and perceptions can be less clear, inhibitions reduced and judgment impaired. It can be more difficult to think clearly and evaluate a potentially dangerous situation and an individual's ability to protect them self is reduced. A person's ability to resist, both physically and verbally, may be impaired.

Rohypnol is in the same family of medications as Valium and Xanax. Rohypnol is not legal in the United States but is in other countries and is prescribed for sleep problems and as a surgical anesthetic. Rohypnol is most commonly found in tablet form. It is usually a small, round, white pill that looks like aspirin that dissolves in liquids and becomes invisible, odorless and tasteless. It can also be found in liquid form.

Effects of Rohypnol: It is a potent sedative. The physical effects of the drug may be noticeable within twenty to thirty minutes after ingestion and may last from four to twenty-four hours. Rohypnol may cause drowsiness, confusion, nausea, impaired motor skills, dizziness, disorientation, impaired judgment, and reduced levels of consciousness. You may look and act like someone who is drunk. Your speech may be slurred, and you may have difficulty standing or walking. Or, you may be rendered completely unconscious. Rohypnol can cause absence of memory for the events that occur after its ingested; this is especially likely when combined with alcohol consumption.

GHB is a powerful synthetic drug that has euphoric and sedative effects. It acts as a depressant on the central nervous system. The only current FDA-approved medical use of GHB (Xyrem) is restricted for the treatment of patients with a rare neurological disorder called Narcolepsy. GHB is most commonly a clear liquid that is colorless and odorless. However, it may have a slightly salty taste. It may also come in a white, grainy powdered form.

Effects of GHB: GHB is rapidly metabolized by the body. The effects of the drug can be felt within ten to twenty minutes after ingestion and typically last up to four hours depending on the dosage. GHB may cause dizziness, blurred vision, nausea, vomiting, confusion, excessive perspiration, intense drowsiness and seizures. In some cases, GHB causes unconsciousness or

coma. As a result, you may not be able to recall what happened to you while you were under the influence of the drug. It takes a very small amount (e.g., a few drops, a capful) to have a big effect. It is easy to overdose. When GHB is used alone, or when it is mixed with alcohol and other drugs, it may cause death. Most of the GHB being used today is the "homegrown" variety. It is made by non-professionals in their own kitchens, or bathtubs by mixing various chemical ingredients.

Ketamine is a general anesthetic. It has hypnotic, stimulant and hallucinogenic properties. Although it is used in some medical settings, it is primarily used by veterinarians to anesthetize animals for surgery. It is also used recreationally. Ketamine can be a liquid or a white powder form.

Effects of Ketamine: Ketamine is fast acting; it can cause dizziness, confusion, disorientation, memory loss, hallucinations, agitation, impaired motor skills, slurred speech, numbness, aggressive or violent behavior, high blood pressure, and potentially fatal respiratory failure. Because of its effects, you may feel detached from your own body and your surroundings, a state sometimes referred to as "conscious sedation." You may be aware of what is happening to you, but unable to move. You may lose consciousness abruptly. Ketamine can also cause depression and amnesia. It is especially dangerous when it is mixed with alcohol or other drugs.

Scopolamine in medicine, it is usually used in the form scopolamine hydrobromide. It can be used as a depressant of the central nervous system, Transdermal patches, are available for the prevention of symptoms of travel sickness. The drug is highly toxic and has to be used in minute doses. The drug is available commercially in tablet and patch form.

Effects of Scopolamine: The drug may take effect in 15-30 minutes and its effects may last 2-3 days. Scopolamine has many effects in the body including decreasing the secretion of fluids, slowing the stomach and intestines, and dilation of the pupils. Common side effects are drowsiness, dizziness, restlessness, blurred vision, difficulty urinating, dry or itchy eyes and accelerated heartbeat. An overdose can cause delirium, delusions, paralysis, stupor and death. Individuals drugged with Scopolamine are often admitted to a hospital in police custody, under the assumption that the patient is experiencing a psychotic episode. Alcohol may increase the effects of this drug.