

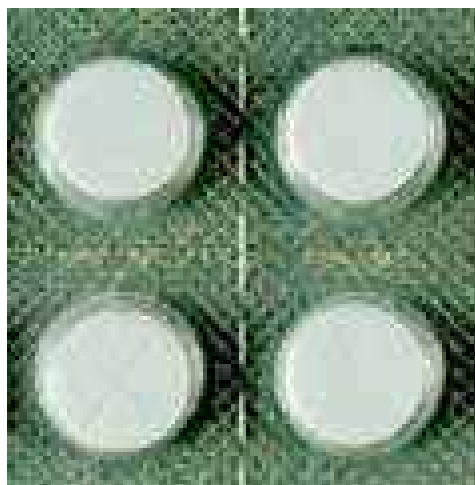
# Drug Fact Sheet

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## Rohypnol

### Overview

Rohypnol is a trade name for flunitrazepam, a central nervous system (CNS) depressant that belongs to a class of drugs known as benzodiazepines. Flunitrazepam is also marketed as generic preparations and other trade name products. Like other benzodiazepines, Rohypnol produces sedative-hypnotic, anti-anxiety and muscle relaxant effects. This drug has never been approved for medical use in the United States by the Food and Drug Administration. Outside of the United States, Rohypnol is commonly prescribed for the treatment of insomnia. Rohypnol is also referred to as a date rape drug.



### Street names

Circles, Forget Pill, Forget-Me-Pill, La Rocha, Lunch Money Drug, Mexican Valium, Pingus, R2, Reynolds, Roach, Roach 2, Roaches, Roachies, Roopies, Robotal, Rochas Dos, Rohypnol, Roofies, Rophies, Ropies, Roples, Row-Shay, Ruffies, Wolfies

### Looks like

Prior to 1997, Rohypnol was manufactured as a white tablet (0.5-2 milligrams per tablet), and when mixed in drinks, was colorless, tasteless, and odorless. In 1997, the manufacturer responded to concerns about the drug's role in sexual assaults by reformulating the drug. Rohypnol is now manufactured as an oblong olive green tablet with a speckled blue core that when dissolved in light-colored drinks will dye the liquid blue. However, generic versions of the drug may not contain the blue dye.

### Methods of abuse

The tablet can be swallowed whole, crushed and snorted, or dissolved in liquid. Adolescents may abuse Rohypnol to produce a euphoric effect often described as a "high." While high, they experience reduced inhibitions and impaired judgment. Rohypnol is also abused in combination with alcohol to produce an exaggerated intoxication. In addition, abuse of Rohypnol may be associated with multiple-substance abuse. For example, cocaine addicts may use benzodiazepines such as Rohypnol to relieve the side effects (e.g., irritability and agitation) associated with cocaine binges. Rohypnol is also misused to physically and psychologically incapacitate women targeted for sexual assault. The drug is usually placed in the alcoholic drink of an unsuspecting victim to incapacitate them and prevent resistance to sexual assault. The drug leaves the victim unaware of what has happened to them.

### Affect on mind

Like other benzodiazepines, Rohypnol slows down the functioning of the CNS producing drowsiness (sedation), sleep (pharmacological hypnosis), decreased anxiety, and amnesia (no memory of events while under the influence of the substance). Rohypnol can also cause increased or decreased reaction time, impaired mental functioning and judgement, confusion, aggression, and excitability.

### Affect on body

Rohypnol causes muscle relaxation. Adverse physical effects include slurred speech, motor incoordination, weakness, headache, and respiratory depression. Rohypnol also can produce physical dependence when taken regularly over a period of time.

### **Drugs causing similar effects**

GHB (gamma hydroxybutyrate) and other benzodiazepines such as alprazolam (e.g., Xanax), clonazepam (e.g., Klonopin), and diazepam (e.g., Valium).

### **Overdose effects**

High doses of Rohypnol particularly when combined with CNS depressant drugs (e.g., alcohol and heroin) can cause severe sedation, unconsciousness, slow heart rate, and suppression of respiration which may be sufficient to result in death.

### **Legal status in the United States**

Rohypnol is a Schedule IV substance under the Controlled Substance Act. Schedule IV drugs are considered to have lower potential for abuse, but still can lead to limited physical or psychological dependence. Rohypnol is not approved for manufacture, sale, use or importation to the United States. Rohypnol is legally manufactured and marketed in many countries. Penalties for possession, trafficking and distribution of Rohypnol are the same as those of a Schedule I drug.

### **Common places of origin**

It is smuggled into the United States from other countries, such as Mexico.

