



To: All Washington State Emergency Departments

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Subject: GHB (Gamma Hydroxybutyrate) vs ROOFIES (Rohypnol, Flunitrazepam)

The Washington Poison Center would like to provide a quick summary of two *date-rape* drugs currently in the media.

GHB (Gamma Hydroxybutyrate)

- GHB is a CNS depressant used as an intoxicant. It is also marketed as a treatment for narcolepsy.
- **Street names:** "Georgia Home Boy", "Liquid Ecstasy", "Liquid X", and "Liquid G"
- **Effects:** euphoria, disinhibition, enhanced sensuality
- **Toxicity:** nausea, dizziness, drowsiness, agitation, visual disturbances, depressed breathing, amnesia, coma, and death.
- **Kinetics:** RAPID ONSET! Effects of GHB can last from 1.5 to 3 hours, longer if large doses have been consumed or if it is mixed with alcohol.
- **Treatment:** Supportive care, often these patients arrive to the ED intubated, then wake up in the ER and pull their own tubes.
 - Serum glucose, electrolytes, pulse oximeter, and ECG should be obtained as a part of the general assessment of the patient.
 - The duration of the detection of GHB in the blood and the urine is short (6 and 12 hours, respectively, after therapeutic doses).

ROOFIES (Rohypnol, Flunitrazepam)

- Flunitrazepam is a short acting benzodiazepine used as an intoxicant.
 - It WAS prescribed for the treatment of severe insomnia, marketed by Roche, most commonly under the trade name Rohypnol.
 - It is now BANNED in the U.S.
- **Street names:** Forget pill, Roofies, The "drop drug", Rope, La Rocha, Ropies, Mexican Valium, Roples, R-2, Row-shay, Rib, Ruffies, Roachies, Ruffles, Roche (pronounced "row shay"), Wolfies.
- **Effects:** Like all benzodiazepines, amnesia, sedation
- **Toxicity:** coma, CNS and respiratory depression, death.
- **Kinetics:** Onset 20-30 minutes. Lasts about 8 hours (longer than GHB)
- **Treatment:** Consider flumazenil, Supportive care.
 - Rohypnol is not detected on many urinary assays so a negative screen does not rule ingestion. Needs to be sent to a lab that does testing for 7-amino-flunitrazepam.
- Some of the newer versions of Rohypnol are now formulated so they turn drinks blue when they dissolve.
- ROOFIES ARE UNLIKELY TO BE A PROBLEM IN THE U.S. IN 2010.

If you have questions about this topic or any suspected poisoning case in your area, please contact the Washington Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222. We have nurses, pharmacists, poison specialists, & Medical Toxicologists available 24/7.

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