Club Drugs

Club drugs like GHB and Rohypnol are used in date rapes, because they are sedatives and can make one unconscious and immobile.

Class of drug: MDMA (Stimulant), GHB (Depressant), Rohypnol (Benzodiazepines), Ketamine (Dissociative), LSD (Hallucinogen)

Main active ingredient: Varies as drug varies. Since club drugs are often manufactured in makeshift labs, it is impossible to know what chemicals are used to produce them and the consequences of each drug.

What it looks like: Most liquid club drugs are odorless, colorless and tasteless, which makes it easy to slip into a drink. Many of the powdered forms are easily dissolved in liquids. Club drugs are also available in pill/capsule form as well as blotter paper.

Street names: MDMA—Ecstasy, E, X, Molly; GHB—Liquid Ecstasy, Grievous Bodily Harm; Ketamine—K, Special K, Kit Kat; Rohypnol—Roofies, R-2; LSD—Acid, Blotter, Microdot

How it is used: Taken orally in pill form (MDMA, GHB, LSD), liquid form (GHB, LSD), powdered form (GHB) and blotter paper (LSD). Ketamine can be smoked, injected or snorted.

Duration of high: Most club drugs effects are felt within 10 to 20 minutes and last from three to six hours. Rohypnol is felt within 30 to 90 minutes and can impair a user for eight to 12 hours.

Withdrawal symptoms: Sleep problems, depression, anxiety

Effects:

Different club drugs have different effects:

Physical—loss of muscle and motor control, blurred vision, dehydration, drowsiness, breathing problems, unconsciousness, increased heart rate, blood pressure and body temperature

Mental—hallucinations, atrograde amnesia, euphoria, impaired senses, memory and judgment

Long-term—sleep problems, heart and kidney failure, brain damage, paranoia, coma, death

Sources: National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) University of Illinois, The Illinois Department of Human Services