

SEAN'S STORY

One Little Pill, Several Big Problems!

Sean was so excited for his first college spring break. He and his roommates were planning on having so much fun in Miami, and he was really excited to get some Florida sun after a brutal New England winter. As he was packing his bags into the car, one of his roommates, Jason, came outside. "Hey man, look what I got. The guy I usually get my pot from says these things are a trip. They make you feel so happy and just connected, man. He says you take them at the club, and things just get crazy." Sean just looked at him and laughed, "That's all you, bro. I'm just going to meet cute girls and get some sun. I'm not into all of that."

After all night driving, Sean and his roommates finally checked into their hotel. The first day was pretty relaxed—sitting by the pool, enjoying the sun. Their relaxing day was about to turn into their worst night when they got to their first club of the night. As the rest of the guys were having fun dancing, Jason was at the corner of the bar, sorting out his pills with Sean standing next to him. Jason motioned to all of the guys, "All right guys! Come take one so we can get this party started!" Little did he know that standing behind him was an undercover cop. She put her hands around Sean and Jason's shoulders and said sweetly, "Mind if I get one?" Sean had no intention of taking his, so he passed his to the cop. "Have fun with that," Sean said as he turned away. Next thing he knew, he and Jason were in hand cuffs. They spent the rest of their spring break in jail.




TEST YOURSELF

1. Circles, La Rocha, Forget-Me Pill are slang names that refer to...
 - a. Ketamine
 - b. Rohypnol
 - c. Ecstasy
 - d. GHB
2. How long does it take to feel the effects of GHB?
 - a. 1-2 hours
 - b. 45 minutes
 - c. 10-15 minutes
 - d. Instantly
3. Which club drug was originally derived from PCP as an anesthetic?
 - a. Marijuana
 - b. Ketamine
 - c. Methamphetamine
 - d. OxyContin
4. Club drugs like GHB, Ketamine, and Rohypnol differ from other sedatives like opiates in that they don't make you nauseated.
 - a. True
 - b. False
5. Which of the following is a side effect of club drug abuse?
 - a. Memory loss
 - b. Loss of consciousness
 - c. Death
 - d. Racing heartbeat
 - e. All of the above

KETAMINE, ROHYPNOL, & GHB



Answers: 1.B 2.B 3.A 4.A 5.A

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CLUB DRUGS

A NIGHT YOU 'LL NEVER REMEMBER

A new nightclub just opened up downtown, and you and your friends can't wait to check it out. You're all 18, so you figure you'll get some older guys to buy your drinks, listen to music and dance. When you all walk in, though, it's not what any of you expected. Loud, pulsating music drowns everyone out, so you can't hear a thing. The line to the bar is ten to fifteen people deep, and the strobe lights keep flashing in your eyes, giving you a headache. Just as you're about to leave, a couple of guys walk up to you. Really cute and in possession of the coveted yellow wristband, you flirt with one of them. Soon, you ask him for a drink. "Nah, I've got something way more fun than alcohol. Here, give this 'G' a try."

You wake up the next afternoon at your friend's apartment and, luckily, not next to that random stranger you met. Your friend asks, "Do you remember anything from last night?" You admit that you don't. "You were so trashed. I didn't drink anything so I could keep an eye out you. That guy got pretty annoyed with me because he kept trying to get you to leave with him, but I'm just glad you're okay."

WHAT ARE CLUB DRUGS?

Commonly used at nightclubs, raves, music festivals and dance parties, club drugs are recreational drugs used to enhance social intimacy and sensory stimulation; they're also commonly used as date rape drugs. GHB, Rohypnol and Ketamine are the most commonly used club drugs, in addition to ecstasy. Because of their relatively low cost and convenient distribution as small pills, liquids, or powders, club drugs are brought into clubs, bars and music festivals. They're popular among party-goers because they're thought to increase social interaction and euphoria, but take too much, and you could be completely oblivious to your surroundings and could even be knocked unconscious.



WHY ARE THEY SO DANGEROUS?

Most users of the club drugs GHB, Rohypnol and Ketamine are younger people who have been educated about the risks of drugs like cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine, but they mistakenly believe that substances that look like regular medications are safe to use. They also may not know that these drugs can very easily lead to overdose. Many users also take club drugs with alcohol, which can have massive implications on your brain and body. Severe drug reactions can occur with even small doses, and often times, people are unaware exactly what or how much they're taking.

GHB

Street Names: G, Liquid Ecstasy, Liquid X, Gib, Scoop, Soap, Nitro, Grievous Bodily Harm, Georgia Home Boy

GHB, also known as Gamma-Hydroxybutyrate, is a powerful depressant that has sedative and hypnotic agents. It was originally created as an anesthetic and gained popularity as a recreational drug in the 1970s. Up until 1990, you could get it without a prescription, but with reports of overdose and the possibility of people using it as a "date rape" drug, GHB was reclassified as Schedule I controlled substance in 2000.

GHB comes as a salty powder that is usually dissolved in water. People usually drink alcohol to cover the unpleasant salty and soapy taste. Effects appear within 15-30 minutes, and overdose is common because the solution toxicity and strength are often unknown.

ROHYPNOL

Street Names: Circles, Roofies, La Rocha, R2, Rope, Forget-Me Pill, Mexican Valium

Rohypnol is a potent benzodiazepine (also referred to as tranquilizers) that's also commonly used as a date rape drug. Even in a single 1 or 2 milligram dose, Rohypnol reduces anxiety and inhibition and relieves muscle pain or tension with a potency that is near 10 times stronger than Valium. If you take a higher dose, you could suffer from anterograde amnesia (memory loss), no control of your muscles, and even loss of consciousness. It only takes about 30 minutes for the drug to affect you, but the effects could last anywhere from 8 to 12 hours.

KETAMINE

Street Names: Special K, Vitamin K, Kit-Kat, Keets, K, Super Acid, Jet

Made from PCP, Ketamine was originally used as an anesthetic, but it causes hallucinations; this limited its use in the medical field but also what made it appealing to drug users. As a liquid, it can be ingested or injected, but it's usually dried into a powder that's smoked or snorted. It only takes 30-45 minutes for the drugs to affect you, and side effects include feeling like you're floating outside of your body and visual hallucinations. You can also suffer from confusion, amnesia, and delirium as well as a racing heartbeat, high blood pressure, and the inability to breathe.

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME?

As the drugs flood your bloodstream and go to your brain, they react to the chemicals in your brain. Using these drugs is extremely hazardous because there's no way to know for sure exactly what you're taking. Club drugs are often made and circulated without any sort of control or regulation, so there's the definite possibility they're mixed with something else. People who use small amounts of these club drugs report feeling more confident when socializing, but there's always the risk you may take more than you intended. It is so easy to overdose on club drugs. Ask yourself, is the ability to be a little bit more social really worth it?

