

“Date rape” drug test on drinks mat

A drinks mat with a detector strip could enable women to check if their drink has been laced with a date-rape drug. The mat will detect GHB and Rohypnol – the two main drugs used by would-be attackers to sedate their victims, leaving them oblivious of the assault



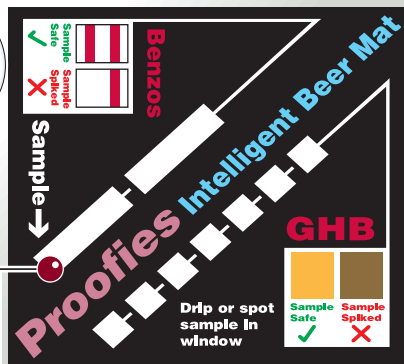
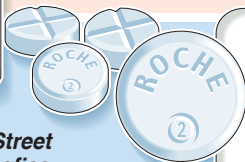
GBH: Street names – Liquid Ecstasy, Scoop, Somatomax. Gamma hydroxybutyrate – an anaesthetic used to treat sleeping disorders, alcohol withdrawal and as an aid to childbirth. Odourless, colourless liquid, slightly salty to taste. At low doses it creates a feeling of well-being and sensuality. Onset of effects occurs within 15-30 minutes, lasts 3-6 hours

Added to alcohol GBH causes loss of consciousness and usually leaves the victim with little or no memory of any sexual attack



Rohypnol: Street names – Roofies, La Rocha, Rope, Forget Pill, Mind-Erasers. A benzodiazepine – central nervous system depressant – 10 times more potent than Valium. Used for short-term treatment of severe sleep disorders

Produces sedative-hypnotic effects including muscle relaxation and amnesia – can become addictive. May be lethal when mixed with alcohol



Drinks mat: Drop of a contaminated drink will trigger strips to change colour