The use of flunitracepam (Rohypnol) has been recently spread among the population; several research information sources demonstrate this fact: epidemiological studies, treatment center reports and, seizure statistics. Likewise, its extensive popularity among certain groups, mainly of adolescents, has become a great health risk due to its indiscriminate use. The main purpose of this paper is to present some qualitative research data about the context in which this medication is used. The information was obtained from individual interviews and focus group sessions with 38 drug users. Results show that adolescents are important consumers, not only for experimenting, but also, and in a more accentuated manner, for customary use. A great range of delinquent behaviors result from this addiction, the participation in street fights, robbery, rape and illicit drug trafficking. Another important finding was the great demand of this drug, which is illegally obtained by stealing and buying prescription books, assaulting drug stores and buying it at clandestine laboratories, among others. Finally, another important finding is the generalized perception these drug users have about this drug. They consider that drugs of medical use are less harmful than cocaine, heroine or design drugs.

Abstract

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Keywords

Drug use, flunitracepam.