Resolution: 505
(A-18)

Introduced by: Medical Student Section

Subject: Researching Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault Testing

Referred to: Reference Committee E
(Douglas W. Martin, MD, Chair)

Whereas, It is estimated that 10–12% of sexual assault victims in emergency rooms are suspected to be drug facilitated sexual assault (commonly known as date rape) victims;¹ and

Whereas, In a national college survey, 5.3% of undergraduate women report having been given drugs without their knowledge or consent and 0.6% of all surveyed women have been sexually assaulted while under the influence of a drug given without their knowledge or consent;² and

Whereas, Of the 31 women in this national survey who reported drug-facilitated sexual assault, only three had a blood or urine sample taken to test for drugs;² and

Whereas, Established accurate methods exist for testing the biological presence of common date rape drugs;³,⁴,⁵ and

Whereas, Federal law provides penalties up to 20 years of imprisonment when rape involves giving a victim a drug without the victim’s knowledge, rendering a charge very serious;¹ therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association study the feasibility and implications of offering drug testing at point of care for date rape drugs, including rohypnol, ketamine, and gamma-hydroxybutyrate, in cases of suspected non-consensual, drug-facilitated sexual assault.

(Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: not yet determined

Received: 04/26/18

RELEVANT AMA POLICY:

Sexual Assault Survivor Services H-80.998
Our AMA supports the function and efficacy of sexual assault survivor services, supports state adoption of the sexual assault survivor rights established in the Survivors' Bill of Rights Act of 2016, encourages sexual assault crisis centers to continue working with local police to help sexual assault survivors, and encourages physicians to support the option of having a counselor present while the sexual assault survivor is receiving medical care.
Citation: Res. 56, A-83; Reaffirmed: CLRDP Rep. 1, I-93; Reaffirmed: CSA Rep. 8, A-05; Reaffirmed: CSAPH Rep. 1, A-15; Modified: Res. 202, I-17;

Sexual Assault Survivors H-80.999
1. Our AMA supports the preparation and dissemination of information and best practices intended to maintain and improve the skills needed by all practicing physicians involved in providing care to sexual assault survivors.
2. Our AMA advocates for the legal protection of sexual assault survivors' rights and work with state medical societies to ensure that each state implements these rights, which include but are not limited to, the right to: (A) receive a medical forensic examination free of charge, which includes but is not limited to HIV/STD testing and treatment, pregnancy testing, treatment of injuries, and collection of forensic evidence; (B) preservation of a sexual assault evidence collection kit for at least the maximum applicable statute of limitation; (C) notification of any intended disposal of a sexual assault evidence kit with the opportunity to be granted further preservation; (D) be informed of these rights and the policies governing the sexual assault evidence kit; and (E) access to emergency contraception information and treatment for pregnancy prevention.
3. Our AMA will collaborate with relevant stakeholders to develop recommendations for implementing best practices in the treatment of sexual assault survivors, including through engagement with the joint working group established for this purpose under the Survivor's Bill of Rights Act of 2016.

Informing the Public & Physicians about Health Risks of Sedative Hypnotics, Especially Rohypnol H-515.968
The AMA re-emphasizes to physicians and public health officials the fact that Rohypnol (a benzodiazepine), other benzodiazepines, and other sedatives and hypnotics carry the risk of misuse, morbidity and mortality. The AMA supports public education and public health initiatives regarding the dangers of the use of sedatives and hypnotics in sexual abuse and rape, especially when mixed with ethanol ingestion.
Citation: Sub. Res. 408, I-97; Reaffirmed: CSAPH Rep. 3, A-07; Reaffirmed: CSAPH Rep. 01, A-17;

Addressing Sexual Assault on College Campuses H-515.956
Our AMA supports universities' implementation of evidence-driven sexual assault prevention programs that specifically address the needs of college students and the unique challenges of the collegiate setting.
Citation: Res. 402, A-16;