Classification: Depressant (Sedative-Hypnotic)

Background: Methaqualone is a quinazolinone derivative that was first synthesized in 1951 and found clinically effective as a sedative-hypnotic in 1956 for the treatment of insomnia, for sedation and as a muscle relaxant. Methaqualone was removed from the U.S. market in 1984 due to its extensive misuse; chronic usage can result in tolerance and physical dependence. It is occasionally encountered in its illicit form and is still available in European countries.

Legally Obtained With Prescription As: Schedule I. Illegal in the U.S.

Legally Obtained OTC: None

Street Names: Quades, Quaaludes, Sopors, Smarties, Mandies, Mandrax, Mandrake, Mandrix, Luding Out, Disco Biscuits, Gorilla Biscuits, Spreaders, Leg Openers, Q’s, Quacks, Quackers, Soapers, Vitamin Q, The Love Drug, Suppers, Joe Fridays, Lemmons and Lovers

Mode of Use: Oral consumption in pill form

Appearance: White round tablet, often with "lemmon 714" inscription

Metabolism and Detection in Urine: At least 12 hydroxylated metabolites have been identified in urine, none with significant pharmacologic activity. The half-life of methaqualone is 20–60 hours and it has a detection window of up to 2 weeks.

Physiological Effects: Respiratory depression, drowsiness, reduced respiration, numbness of the fingers and toes, slurred speech and headache

Psychological Effects: Euphoria, increased sexual arousal and photophobia

Toxicity: Slurred speech, headache, photophobia, delirium, convulsions, hypertension, hyperreflexia, vomiting, renal insufficiency, coma and death through cardiac and respiratory arrest

Screen Test: Performed by enzyme multiplied immunoassay technique (EMIT)

Confirmation Test: Available upon request by reference laboratory

Cutoff Levels:
Screen Test: 300 ng/mL