

Carmen Admission

Carmen is a 16 year old girl with a longstanding conflict with her parents, particularly her mother. Carmen's parents separated two years ago. Her father lives nearby and sees his children on the weekend. Carmen's mother is often critical and there are conflicts between Carmen and her mother about Carmen's academic achievement, drug taking with friends and staying out late. Carmen's school reports have been getting worse over the last year and Carmen failed her maths exam last week. Carmen has had interrupted sleep and poor appetite for the last three weeks. She says she has been feeling depressed all the time and has an overwhelming sense of hopelessness. Since last year she has had ideas about self harm. Carmen sights the ongoing conflict with her mother as the reason that she required sutures to deep lacerations she made to both wrists recently. Her mother thinks that she hangs around with the wrong kids at school. She says, she doesn't know what to do with "the girl". Carmen has left her part time job at the local store. Carmen says she has a boyfriend (Jason) and hangs out with him and a group of friends regularly. Carmen admits using recreational drugs and has used ecstasy recently. She drinks alcohol with her friends on a regular basis. Carmen says she uses alcohol to "get over my mother. Although Carmen reports having a good relationship with her brother she believes that he is her mothers favourite. Carmen had a very good relationship with her grandmother who died of cancer six months ago. Carmen has kept a secret that around the time her grandmother's death, she was sexually abused by her Uncle. Her General Practitioner recently prescribed Carmen Zoloft 50mgs daily.