

# 31996

The verbal (60) and full scale score (63) are in the low average range. The performance score (60) is in the borderline range. Age scale scores are somewhat higher than scale scores suggesting that cognitive impairments are not as severe as might appear considering only scale scores. Nevertheless there is evidence of deficits and problems both verbal and nonverbal. Attention, memory and concentration are poor with scores significantly below average on both verbal and nonverbal tests. There is also evidence of problems with fund of knowledge, judgement and social reasoning. Responses to a number of the comprehension test questions were antisocial. The subject's attitude and rebelliousness, often outrageous, out of control behaviors are her way of rebelling. She is also attempting to attract attention and establish an identity. In reality she is lonely, insecure, angry and depressed.

She scored 28 on the Beck Depression Inventory which is in the severe range of depression. Responses included, "I would kill myself if I had the chance". "I hate myself". "I believe that I am ugly". And, "I feel guilty all of the time". Much of the patient's anger is related to feelings that she is abused and ignored by her family. Mother is seen as the "good parent" but one who is unavailable. Father is the "bad parent". The subject's depression is related in part to grief that her family is not the ideal loving, available family. In therapy she will have to deal with this and move on with her life. This will be difficult. Her suicidal gestures are attempts to gain attention and have unmet needs met. At a time when she should be focusing on herself and her own many special and unique abilities and resources she is regressed. She is like a child who hurts themselves in an attempt to punish the parents. Her suicidal gestures and severe depression are disturbing and must not be discounted.

Sentence completion responses included, "My mother is nice but thinks of my father first". "Suicide is sometimes the only way out". "I regret being born". "Alcohol and drugs rule most of my life". And, "I hate almost everything". The TAT stories are about protagonists who have been abandoned by the family, individuals who are abused and isolated and death. The subject identified with one of the protagonists - a man in a cemetery - and told the examiner that she was beginning to experiment with the occult.

**SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATIONS**

The subject is severely depressed. Chronic and extensive use of a variety of mood altering drugs exacerbates mood swings and contributes to functional disability. There is a possibility of irreversable brain damage due to drug use. Hospitalization is required based on the risk of suicide. Specific recommendations include:

- 1) Education of the parents as to the severity and nature of the problems.
- 2) Confrontation
- 3) Focus on the subject's unique and special abilities and provide her with opportunities for success. She has a high level of energy and can be creative. She has a good sense of imagination. She writes poetry. Encourage her to share her poems and write about her feelings