

Schizophrenia

Case Study :

Name – Emilio

Sex – Male

Age – 40 years

Written from the point of view of an observer to a hospital consultation.

Emilio is a 40-year-old man who came to the hospital with his mother. He is dressed in a dirty coat, shorts, bedroom slippers and a baseball cap and has several medals hanging around his neck. He appears to be angry with his mother, claiming that she is poisoning him.

Sometimes he giggles and acts seductively toward the interviewer. He talks like a child and walks with a swing in his step and exaggerated hip movements. His mother tells the interviewer that Emilio stopped taking his medication a month ago and that since then, he has begun to hear voices and act more and more bizarrely. When he is asked what he has been doing lately, he responds, “eating wires and lighting fires”. His speech is difficult to understand and he often rhymes his words even if the rhymes do not make sense.

Emilio dropped out of school when he was 16 years old. He was hospitalised because he was hearing voices telling him that the principle of his high school was trying to kill him. Emilio receives medications for his symptoms during every hospitalisation. Within a few months, however, he often stops taking his medication and eventually returns to hospital. He lives with his mother but occasionally leaves her house and disappears for months at a time. On these occasions, Emilio has been picked up by the police for his behaviour and returned to a psychiatric hospital.

Emilio's behaviours worry his mother. Emilio is hearing voices and although we do not know what they are saying, they seem to be contributing to his erratic behaviour. Emilio believes that his mother is poisoning him, even though this is not true.

Case Study – Schizophrenia_adapted from : Veague, H, B., (2007), *Schizophrenia*, New York : Chelsea House Publishers, pp 13-23