

Schizophrenia was diagnosed in Caroline at 19 years old, and she is currently 22. Her life was relatively ordinary while she was in school and high school. At the age of 17, she left her parents behind to attend a college that was located far from her hometown. Moreover, her first year went smoothly, but upon coming home for Thanksgiving break in her second year, her parents detected a noticeable change in her behavior. She chose to spend a lot of time alone, experienced irritability, and developed a habit of chain smoking and alcohol consumption. This led to her failing two courses during the fall semester and being put on probation. Her old roommate declined to stay with her when she returned to school in the spring, stating, "She acts so crazy sometimes." She talks out of her head, and I'm afraid of her." In late February, Caroline's parents got a call from the dean of students who said that the campus police had to be called to Caroline's room to be quiet. She had been "yelling and screaming," and no one could understand what it had been about. She had frightened the other students in the dormitory. These bizarre behaviors continued, and during spring break in March, Caroline's parents moved her home and made an appointment with a psychiatrist for an evaluation. During the assessment, Caroline's thought processes were loose, vague, and often circumstantial. She exhibited behaviors that suggested auditory hallucinations (stopping mid-sentence and "cocking" her head to the side as if listening), although when questioned about whether or not she heard voices, she denied it. Paranoid delusional thinking was evident. She made statements such as, "There is no one I can trust at that college. Every student in that dorm has been told to keep an eye on me. They all know I am too smart to be there, so they will do what they can to make me fail. If I pass, then everyone else fails." She also expressed somatic delusions: "I'm pregnant you know. It will be a virgin birth. That's another reason the college kids are out to get me. They are so jealous I am the chosen one." Vital signs were checked and all are within normal limits. She appears to be older than her age, appeared having poor hygiene, can't maintain eye contact during conversation, reported of having difficulty and interrupted sleep according to parents and doesn't eat enough because she's thinking that her food was being poisoned. She also lost some weight. Since that time, she has been on several antipsychotic medications (chlorpromazine 200mg/day, tab; clozapine 12.5mg OD, oral; and risperidone 2mg/day, tab), each with only minimal success, and which she would eventually quit taking altogether. She currently lives at home with her parents, who are beside themselves with concern and frustration. The psychiatrist has admitted Caroline to the hospital at this time to evaluate her behavior and to begin her on a trial of fluphenazine decanoate, 25mg/1ml, which will eventually be administered only every 3 weeks by IM injection, to encourage increased medication compliance on Caroline's part.