

CYS Vignette

This evaluator was dispatched to West Hills Middle School to evaluate a 15-year-old Hispanic female (name: Mary M.) who was brought to the school counseling office after she told a friend she wanted to kill herself after her boyfriend broke up with her last night. She said she plans to ingest 30 Acetaminophen (Tylenol) pills after school, which she keeps in her backpack. Patient's mother (Spanish-speaking only) was waiting in the school lobby waiting for this evaluator. Interview with the mother revealed the patient has been very disruptive at home and does not listen to her mother who is divorced from the patient's father. One younger sibling lives at home with the patient and mother. Mother said the patient has never mentioned wanting harm herself and this is the first times she was aware the patient had thoughts of self-harm. There is no history of mental illness or psychiatric treatment in the family. Interview with patient revealed that she has been depressed for the past several months and that she has a very conflicted relationship with her mother. "We fight every day. There is no peace in my home." Patient shared that she cuts on her arms when feeling angry or depressed. Patient said she is happy when she is with her boyfriend, but now feels there is no hope and wants to die. Patient said she would either take the Tylenol pills or jump from the five-story parking garage, which she passes every day on her walk home from school.