

Case Vignette

Mr. A is a 30-year-old Japanese male. He is a person of average height and build. He was born and raised in the capital city of the country. After graduation from high school, Mr. A had been working as a shop attendant until he was dismissed last year. He lives alone in Tokyo and seldom communicates except by phone with his parents and siblings, who live in his neighborhood. He has no previous history of psychiatric or physical problems.

Mr. A gradually became isolated and then refused to be contacted by his friends and neighbors. He began to claim that “They are going to attack me with radio waves from outer space” and “Once they know about me, that will be the end of me” and sealed up all the windows and stayed home alone most of the time. One day, Mr. A went into his neighbor’s house and suddenly started to yell out, “You are the one! You are one of the aliens!” His speech was disorganized and he held a kitchen knife pointing at his neighbor. Then Mr. A stabbed his neighbor with the knife and seriously injured him. He showed distinct delusions and agitation, and had no sense of being mentally ill. It is highly likely that Mr. A will be diagnosed as having schizophrenia.