

Tam

11 year- old Vietnamese girl with Asperger's Disorder. Family is from middle-high socio-economic status. Mother brought daughter to child psychiatrist with suspicion that child was on Autism Spectrum due to significant social impairment. She was concerned about her child's lack of social skills, lack of friends and ritualistic and compulsive behavior. Child also manifested significant depressive symptoms, including intermittent passive suicidal ideation related to being ostracized by peers. Although mother acknowledges that child has "problems" and wants treatment, father does not. He has not attended any sessions with the clinician. Mother feels torn about treating child. Child feels confused and anxious.

1--How would you proceed?

2—How is culture playing a role in the formulation of this child's case and treatment?

Case Highlights

- Ethnic identity
- "Meaning" of medication
- "Meaning" of diagnosis
- Stigma
- Guilt
- Acculturation
- Family dynamics

Cultural Assessment/ Formulation

- Cultural identity
- Cultural explanation of illness
- Cultural factors related to psychosocial environment/levels function
- Cultural elements of the relationship between individual/ clinician
- Overall cultural assessment for diagnosis and care