

**Forensic Science; Case Study: Drug B
(ANSWER QUESTIONS ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER)**

Case 3-Suzanne S.

Suzanne has come by the free "drop-in" counseling clinic where you work to get some information and advice. Suzanne is a 22-year-old single woman who has been living with her boyfriend Jack in Manhattan's lower east side for the last four years. She and Jack have been heroin addicts for as many years.

When Suzanne was 10 years old, her father, whom she says was a very heavy drinker, left her mom and the kids and never came back. At 14 she started drinking and smoking marijuana. At 16 she had dropped out of high school and at 18 she moved in with Jack. He introduced her to heroin. She reports using about a 1/2 gram of heroin per day just to be able to function and feel comfortable. In order to pay for the heroin and pay the rent on their apartment, Jack doesn't work; instead, she works the streets at night. She usually drinks four or five beers each night before going out to work. If she can't score enough heroin, she will try to score either some Valium? Or Klonopin? To "tide me over until I can get some 'horse'". She says she has tried cocaine but, "I really didn't care for the high all that much."

Suzanne tells you that the alcohol and heroin help to calm her nerves and get her through the night. She and Jack are not having sex all that much. When they do make love he never wears a condom. He says that's what makes him different from her "john's" "Which is true because I won't work without a condom."

Lately she has noticed that her breasts have become swollen and tenderer. She also hasn't had her period in the last 12 weeks. She is pretty sure she is pregnant and knows it's her boy friend's baby. However she not sure she can stop using dope or work to have the baby even though Jack wants her to keep it. She really confused at what she should do and is her asking for you to help her make some decisions. Her friend who works with her at night told her not to stop using dope if she is pregnant "Because it's worse for the baby than to keep using." "I just don't know what I should do?"

Questions-Case 3

1. What drug(s) does Suzanne seem to be most addicted to?
2. Of the drugs she is abusing, which one(s) pose more of a danger to withdraw from? Why?
3. What dangers do you see as you read this case? What are the dangers for Suzanne? What are the dangers for the baby?
4. What treatment options would you offer Suzanne and why?
5. What referrals would you give to her and in what order?
6. Is her girlfriend correct in her advice for Suzanne not to stop her heroin use if she is pregnant? If she is, why?
7. What legal issues are more than likely to present themselves in this case if she decides to keep the child?
8. Do you see any "transference or counter-transference" issues that could affect your judgment in handling this case? Please explain?

Name: _____