



# Case of Richard Thompson

## ALCOHOL USE DISORDER

Richard Thompson, a 28-year-old white male, presented at the Serene Oaks Recovery Center with his wife and parents. Richard and his family had just participated in an intervention where family members shared their concerns and expressed their collective desire to see him get help for his drinking. Richard's drinking had escalated quite rapidly since losing his job last year. Richard had always had a "high tolerance." Prior to the job loss, he was drinking mostly on the weekends, consuming 8 to 12 beers on occasion, yet at times reportedly he consumed much more. He did have a DUI when he was 21, but other than that, Richard denied having any problems with drinking prior to losing his job and described himself as

a "social" drinker. Since the job loss, Richard has been drinking most days of the week and has begun consuming hard liquor in addition to beer, sometimes including a fifth of vodka per day. He has been having trouble remembering events while intoxicated and has been asked by his wife to leave the home on several occasions while drinking due to his belligerent behavior. At one point, the police were called to the home due to Richard's aggressive behavior. This incident prompted the recent family intervention and subsequent admission to Serene Oaks Recovery Center.

Clinical vignette provided by Michael Cameron Wolff, PhD, CADC