Management of the aggressive patient: Case study

A 22 year old Male was brought into the ED by his mother. She reports strange behaviour for the last two months, consisting of the mom hearing him talk to himself , outbursts of over-activity and he has become aggressive. His mom is very concerned about his behaviour.

During your observation whilst taking a history, you notice that the patient appears to be restless and is uncooperative and aggressive towards his mother and yourself as the doctor. He refuses to answer any questions and he is yelling at other patients who are also beginning to look uncomfortable.

1. What is your differential diagnosis?
2. What questions would be valuable to ask during the history taking in this specific case?
3. How would you work up this patient ie: blood/investigations?
4. What would be your management for this patient?

The son claims that he is hearing voices and people telling him that they are plotting to kill him. He begins to hurry around the ED, toppling over a chair at the front desk and pointing and shouting at other patients.

1. What is your diagnosis?
2. What would your drug of choice for management be and why?
3. If the patient was deaf and aggressive how would management differ?