



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Office of Research and Engineering
Washington, DC

Medical Factual Report

June 16, 2021

Mary Pat McKay, MD, MPH
Chief Medical Officer

A. ACCIDENT: CEN20LA122; LaCrosse, KS

Date and time: March 17, 2020, 09:19 local time

Injuries: 1 fatal

B. GROUP IDENTIFICATION

No group was formed for the medical evaluation in this accident.

C. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

1. Purpose

This investigation was performed to evaluate the pilot for medical conditions, the use of medications/illicit drugs, and the presence of toxins.

2. Methods

The FAA medical case review, autopsy report, toxicology findings, and the investigator's reports were reviewed. Relevant regulation and medical literature were reviewed as appropriate. Attempts were made to obtain personal medical records regarding the pilot's care before the accident but were unsuccessful.

FAA Medical Case Review

According to the FAA medical case review, the 56 year old male pilot had reported 9900 total flight hours as of his last medical exam, dated 4/30/2019. At that time, he was 74 inches tall and weighed 225 pounds. He had reported having high blood pressure to the FAA and at his last exam reported the use of lisinopril to treat it. The pilot had deficit color vision but was issued a SODA for it in 1986 and later was issued a Letter of Evidence that cleared him for first and second class medical certificates. No significant abnormalities were identified on the physical exam and he

was issued a second class medical certificate limited by a requirement he have available glasses for near vision.

Autopsy

According to the autopsy performed by the XXIV Judicial District of Kansas Deputy Coroner, the cause of death was fragmentation of the body by blunt impact and the manner of death was accident. There was extensive damage; the brain and majority of the heart were not available for examination. The pathologist reported the presence of hypertensive cardiovascular disease based on the microscopic appearance of the kidneys.

Toxicology

Toxicology testing performed by the FAA's Forensic Sciences Laboratory identified atorvastatin and trimethoprim in liver and muscle tissues.

Medication Descriptions

Lisinopril is a prescription medication for high blood pressure.¹

Atorvastatin is a prescription medication used to lower cholesterol, often marketed with the name Lipitor.² Trimethoprim is a prescription antibiotic.³ None of these drugs are considered impairing.

D. SUMMARY OF MEDICAL FINDINGS

The 56 year old male pilot had reported having high blood pressure to the FAA and at his last exam reported the use of lisinopril to treat it. The pilot had deficit color vision but was issued a SODA for it in 1986 and later was issued a Letter of Evidence that cleared him for first and second class medical certificates.

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¹ National Institutes of Health. US National Library of Medicine. DailyMed. Lisinopril.
<https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/drugInfo.cfm?setid=43e2c8d1-3704-4323-bcaf-f582572b81f7>
Accessed 5/26/2021.

² National Institutes of Health. US National Library of Medicine. DailyMed. Atorvastatin.
<https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/drugInfo.cfm?setid=6ccdb6f3-22c7-5b48-46bc-ce4a4c65eb4d>
Accessed 11/6/2019.

³ National Institutes of Health. US National Library of Medicine. DailyMed. Trimethoprim.
<https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/drugInfo.cfm?setid=249e938d-f181-47c4-a082-372d65462f33>
Accessed 5/26/2021.