

National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Research and Engineering

Washington, DC 20594



CEN21FA314

MEDICAL

Specialist's Factual Report

September 30, 2022

A. ACCIDENT

Location: Seiling, Oklahoma
Date: July 12, 2021
Time: 9:40 Local
Airplane: PZL Mielec M18; N9310R

B. MEDICAL SPECIALIST

Specialist Michelle Watters, MD, PhD, MPH
National Transportation Safety Board, RE-1
Washington, DC

C. DETAILS OF THE INVESTIGATION

Purpose

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

Methods

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) medical case review and the pilot's autopsy and FAA Forensic Sciences Laboratory toxicology reports¹ were reviewed. Other relevant medical and regulatory issues were reviewed.

D. FACTUAL INFORMATION

1.0 Pilot

1.1 FAA Medical Case Review

According to the FAA medical case review, at the time of the accident, the 65 year-old male pilot held a second class medical certificate with the limitation that he must have available glasses for near vision. At the time of his most recent exam (8/21/20), the pilot was 68 inches tall and weighed 200 pounds. He reported having 11,048 total flight hours. He reported taking loratadine, fluticasone, and montelukast to treat hay fever and atorvastatin to treat high cholesterol. No significant medical concerns were identified.

¹ The FAA Forensic Sciences Laboratory has the capability to test for more than 1,300 substances including toxins, common prescription and over-the-counter medications, and illicit drugs. <https://jag.cami.jccbi.gov/toxicology/>

1.2 Autopsy

According to the autopsy report from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the pilot's cause of death was multiple blunt force injuries and the manner of death was accident. Other than some focal atherosclerosis of 50% in the left anterior descending and left circumflex arteries, no evidence of significant natural disease was identified.

1.3 Toxicology

Toxicology testing performed by the FAA Forensic Sciences Laboratory detected loratadine and its metabolite desloratadine, atorvastatin, and the fungal medication fluconazole in the pilot's cavity blood and urine. None of these medications are generally considered impairing.² Toxicology testing performed by the medical examiner was negative for ethanol in vitreous fluid and tested-for drugs in femoral blood.

E. SUMMARY OF MEDICAL FACTS

The 65-year-old male pilot had a second class medical certificate with the limitation that he must have available glasses for near vision. He reported taking loratadine, fluticasone, and montelukast to treat hay fever and atorvastatin to treat high cholesterol. According to the autopsy report, the pilot's cause of death was multiple blunt force injuries and the manner of death was accident. Focal atherosclerosis of 50% in the left anterior descending and left circumflex arteries were identified. Toxicology testing detected the non-impairing substances loratadine, its metabolite desloratadine, atorvastatin, and fluconazole in the pilot's cavity blood and urine.

Submitted by:

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Medical Officer, RE-1

² FAA. Updated 1/16/19. Forensic Toxicology's WebDrugs.
Loratadine. <https://jag.cami.jccbi.gov/toxicology/DrugDetail.asp?did=150>
Desloratadine. <https://jag.cami.jccbi.gov/toxicology/DrugDetail.asp?did=379>
Atorvastatin. <https://jag.cami.jccbi.gov/toxicology/DrugDetail.asp?did=312>
Fluconazole. <https://jag.cami.jccbi.gov/toxicology/DrugDetail.asp?did=66>