



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Office of Research and Engineering
Washington, DC

Medical Factual Report

July 5, 2022

Mary Pat McKay, MD, MPH
Chief Medical Officer

A. CRASH: CEN22FA070; Inola, OK

Date and time: December 12, 2021

Injuries: 1 fatal

B. GROUP IDENTIFICATION

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

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 preliminary report were reviewed. Relevant regulation and medical literature were reviewed as appropriate.

FAA Medical Case Review

According to the FAA medical case review, the 66 year old male pilot had reported 6,323 hours of flight experience as of his last aviation medical exam dated 7/27/2021. He had reported high blood pressure and hay fever to the FAA along with the use of lisinopril and atorvastatin. These medications are not considered impairing. At the evaluation, the pilot also reported taking gabapentin (a sedating antiseizure drug often used to treat painful nerve conditions); the pilot was informed by the aviation medical examiner he could not have a medical certificate while taking this medication and he reported he stopped using it. There was no record of the reason for its use. No significant abnormalities were identified and he was

issued a second class medical certificate limited by a requirement he wear corrective lenses.

Autopsy

According to the autopsy report issued by Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, State of Oklahoma, the cause of death was multiple blunt force injuries and the manner of death was accident. No significant natural disease was identified.

Toxicology

Toxicology tests performed by the Board of Medicolegal Investigations, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner did not identify any tested-for substances.

Toxicology testing performed by the FAA's Forensic Sciences Laboratory identified gabapentin in urine and liver tissue.

Description of Substances

Gabapentin is an antiseizure medication also commonly used to treat painful nerve conditions. It carries a warning about driving, somnolence (sleepiness), and dizziness.¹

D. SUMMARY OF MEDICAL FINDINGS

The 66 year old male pilot had reported high blood pressure and hay fever to the FAA along with the use of lisinopril and atorvastatin.

According to the autopsy report issued by Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, State of Oklahoma, the cause of death was multiple blunt force injuries and the manner of death was accident. No significant natural disease was identified.

Toxicology tests performed by the Board of Medicolegal Investigations, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner did not identify any tested-for substances.

Toxicology testing performed by the FAA's Forensic Sciences Laboratory identified gabapentin in urine and liver tissue.

¹ National Institutes of Health. US National Library of Medicine. DailyMed. Gabapentin. <https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/drugInfo.cfm?setid=7538e255-95df-4991-aae0-a90d709f1e95>
Accessed 6/28/2022.