



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Office of Research and Engineering
Washington, DC

Medical Factual Report

June 22, 2020

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Chief Medical Officer

A. ACCIDENT: ERA20FA029; Cedartown, GA

On November 4, 2019, about 1200 eastern standard time, an experimental amateur-built Tango2 gyroplane, N875FV, was substantially damaged when it impacted a field near Cedartown, Georgia. The sport pilot was fatally injured. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and no flight plan was filed for the local flight, which originated from Polk County Airport (4A4), Cedartown, Georgia, around 1130. The test flight was conducted under the provisions of Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91.

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.

FAA Medical Case Review

According to the FAA medical case review, the 63 year old male pilot had obtained a sport pilot certificate in 2018. He had never applied for or obtained an FAA medical certificate and was not required to do so.

Autopsy

According to the autopsy performed by the Division of Forensic Sciences,

Georgia Bureau of Investigation, at the request of the Polk County Coroner, the cause of death was multiple blunt force injuries and the manner of death was accident. In addition, severe coronary artery disease was found with a metal stent in the proximal right coronary artery (<20% residual stenosis), native left anterior descending coronary artery with 80% stenosis, and 60% stenosis of the left circumflex coronary artery. The remainder of the heart exam was unremarkable; there was no obvious evidence of myocardial infarction, but no microscopic examination was carried out. No other natural disease was identified.

Toxicology

Toxicology testing performed by the FAA's Forensic Sciences Laboratory identified sertraline and its metabolite desmethylsertraline, atorvastatin, and metoprolol in blood and urine.

Medication Descriptions

Sertraline is a prescription antidepressant often marketed with the name Zoloft.¹ Atorvastatin is a prescription cholesterol lowering medication often marketed as Lipitor.² Metoprolol is a blood pressure lowering prescription medication that also helps protect against heart attacks.³ These are not generally considered impairing.

D. SUMMARY OF MEDICAL FINDINGS

The 63 year old male sport pilot had never had an aviation medical certificate.

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¹ National Institutes of Health. US National Library of Medicine. DailyMed. Sertraline.

https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/drugInfo.cfm?setid=f9641190-9151-4f7e-89ff-1e7a818c30ec#LINK_2b7c9bc2-2cf7-4d62-a7ad-f3839cc3e47a Accessed 6/16/2020.

² National Institutes of Health. US National Library of Medicine. DailyMed. Atorvastatin.

<https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/drugInfo.cfm?setid=2e94161c-3360-4fb0-bb3a-048fdc1d137a> Accessed 6/16/2020.

³ National Institutes of Health. US National Library of Medicine. DailyMed. Metoprolol.

<https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/drugInfo.cfm?setid=90aa06a3-100f-4466-b950-506303707b01> Accessed 6/16/2020.