



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

NTSB Medical Officer Review

Lynn Spencer
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: February 14, 2022
Medical Officer: Michelle Watters, MD, PhD
NTSB Accident Number: ERA21LA085

The NTSB medical officer reviewed this accident (ERA21LA085 – Midway, GA) because the medical examiner's office was unable to provide an autopsy report and almost 14 months had elapsed from the accident. While the autopsy had been performed, the medical examiner reported that the information from the autopsy had been lost in a computer crash; it was uncertain if and when the report would be available. The FAA had closed their case and issued their final medical case review.

I reviewed the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) medical case review and the pilot's FAA Forensic Sciences Laboratory toxicology report.^[1] I also reviewed relevant medical information.

Reports provided

According to the FAA medical case review, the 63-year-old male pilot was flying under BasicMed; he completed the course on 7/31/19. His most recent medical certification exam was on 2/21/17 where he was issued a third-class medical certificate with the limitation that he have available glasses for near vision; the certificate expired in 2019. At that exam he reported 4,100 civil flight hours and he was 70 inches tall and weighed 185 pounds. He reported taking the medications verapamil and lisinopril for high blood pressure. No significant medical issues were identified.

Toxicology testing performed by the FAA Forensic Sciences Laboratory identified the high blood pressure medications amlodipine and valsartan in the pilot's urine and blood; these substances are generally considered non-impairing.^[2]

^[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 as well as illicit drugs. [Methodology \(faa.gov\)](https://www.faa.gov/forensic/toxicology/methodology)

^[2] FAA. Updated 1/16/19. Forensic Toxicology's WebDrugs.
Amlodipine. <https://jag.cami.jccbi.gov/toxicology/DrugDetail.asp?did=128>
Valsartan. <https://jag.cami.jccbi.gov/toxicology/DrugDetail.asp?did=286>