

LAX06FA129
MEDICAL RECORDS INFORMATION

The following information was extracted by Dr. Mitchell A. Garber, NTSB Medical Officer, from the pilot's medical records maintained by the FAA Aerospace Medical Certification Division:

9/29/95 – An application for 3rd class Airman Medical Certificate indicated “yes” for “Do you currently use any medication” and noted “Prozac [fluoxetine] – anxiety – 10mg – daily.” Under “Medical History” is noted “yes” in response to “Mental disorders of any sort; depression, anxiety, etc.” A medical certificate is noted as having been issued by the Aviation Medical Examiner.

10/26/95 – A letter to the pilot from the FAA notes “... you do not meet the medical standards ... due to your history of anxiety requiring the use of disqualifying medications. ... your application for issuance of an airman medical certificate is hereby denied. ...”

1/31/96 – A letter to the FAA from the pilot's Aviation Medical Examiner notes that the pilot “... has been under my care and has been off Prozac for 90 days. There have been no adverse reactions nor effects and he is perfectly normal in all respects.”

2/21/96 – A letter to the pilot from the FAA notes “Our review of your medical records has established that you are eligible for a third-class medical certificate. ... Because of your history of anxiety, operation of aircraft is prohibited at any time new symptoms or adverse changes occur or any time medication is required. ...”

7/7/05 – The pilot's most recent application for 3rd class Airman Medical Certificate indicated “yes” for “Do you currently use any medication” and noted only “Prevacid [lansoprazole]” and “Lipitor [atorvastatin].” Under “Medical History” is noted “no” in response to “Mental disorders of any sort; depression, anxiety, etc.”

The following information was extracted by Dr. Mitchell A. Garber, NTSB Medical Officer, from the reports of autopsy performed on the pilot and passenger at the Los Angeles County (California) Department of Coroner:

From the autopsy report on the pilot –
Under “Autopsy Findings,” is noted:

A. Blunt traumatic injuries:

1. Laceration, prominent frontal scalp/forehead, with focal abrasion associated subgaleal contusion.
2. Abrasions, left temple.
3. Contusions and abrasions, back of right hand.

4. T11 spinal compression fracture with epidural spinal canal hemorrhage, severe.

B. Evidence of drowning:

1. Wet, edematous lungs; right lung 700 grams; left lung 650 grams.
2. Petrous-mastoid hemorrhages.

Under "Toxicology Report" is noted, in part:

Blood, Femoral

Citalopram 0.34 micrograms/mL

Norcitalopram <0.10 micrograms/mL

Trazodone 0.28 micrograms/mL

Blood, Heart

Citalopram 0.70 micrograms/mL

Norcitalopram 0.09 micrograms/mL

Trazodone 0.27 micrograms/mL

From the autopsy report on the passenger –

Under "Autopsy Findings," is noted:

A. Blunt traumatic injuries:

1. Abraded contusion, forehead, and subgaleal contusions.
2. Abrasions, right eyelid, left temple.
3. Laceration, upper lip.
4. Contusions, back of right hand, left chest.
5. Abrasions and contusions, back of left hand.
6. T12 spinal compression fracture with epidural spinal canal hemorrhage, severe.

B. Evidence of drowning:

1. Wet, edematous lungs; each lung 700 grams.
2. Petrous, mastoid hemorrhage.
3. Watery, slightly turbid fluid in stomach.

Cause of death for the pilot and the passenger is noted as "drowning, due to, or as a consequence of, complications of blunt trauma."