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THE INCIDENCE OF NON-HODGKIN'S LYMPHOMA IN THAI COMMERCIAL PILOTS BETWEEN 2015-2017

L'INCIDENCE DE LYMPHOME NON HODGKINIEN DANS LES PILOTES DE LIGNE THAÏ DE 2015 À 2017

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Introduction: Non-Hodgkin's lymphomas are tumors that usually originate in the lymph nodes, but they may originate in any organ of the body. Like other malignancies, the aviators may be disqualified from flying. There are a few reports about Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma among Thai pilots. During this era, availability of newer modalities of therapy has made complete remission more common.

Methods: Retrospective analysis of available medical documents of Institute of Aviation Medicine Royal Thai Air Force between 1 Jan 2015 and 31 Dec 2017

Results: A total of four cases of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma were detected. All of the four were male; 2 were diagnosed as follicular lymphoma, 1 anaplastic large B cell lymphoma and 1 diffuse large B cell lymphoma. At first, they were unfit to fly and all received waivers. The evaluations for returning to fly were considered after completed therapies and their disease status were in complete remission. Re-fighting was based on the guidelines issued by ICAO, EASA and FAA. Three of them were evaluated physically and mentally as fit to fly and received medical certificates as Class I OML. Only one pilot was permanently grounded because of his mental illness.

Conclusion: This study reveals small incidence of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in Thai commercial pilots between 2015-2017. Certificatory assessment should commence after the disease is in complete remission. Both physical and mental re-evaluations are required.