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AN ICASM DEBATE: IS IT SAFE FOR PRIVATE AND COMMERCIAL PILOTS TO FLY AFTER CVA?

UN DEBAT ICASM: EST-IL SECURITAIRE POUR LES PILOTES PRIVES OU COMMERCIAUX DE SURVOLER CVA?

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Introduction: Transient ischaemic attack (TIA) is one end of the spectrum in cerebrovascular accident (CVA) with sudden death as the other extreme, and 'stroke' in the middle. While residual neurological deficits are likely to result in functional impairment, there remains a risk of sudden incapacitation. A diagnosis of CVA may spell doom, both physically and economically, for a pilot. TIA is "a brief episode of neurologic dysfunction caused by focal brain or retinal ischaemia, with clinical symptoms typically lasting less than one hour and without evidence of acute infarction" [Easton JD, et al., *Stroke* 2009;40:2276-2293]. While the term, "stroke," should be broadly used to include all of the following: "CNS infarction is brain, spinal cord, or retinal cell death attributable to ischaemia, based on 1. Pathological, imaging or other objective evidence of cerebral, spinal cord or retinal focal ischaemic injury in a defined vascular distribution; or 2. clinical evidence of cerebral, spinal cord or retinal focal ischaemic injury based on symptoms persisting > 24 hours or until death, and other etiologies excluded." [Sacco RL, et al., *Stroke* 2013;44:2064-2089] While very few aviation regulators may allow a pilot to return back to flying with mitigating factors after a defined period of observation on ground, most regulators deny a return to cockpit for pilots with a diagnosis of CVA/Stroke/TIA. The proposition to be debated is: "It is safe for private and commercial pilots to fly after a CVA."

Method: The moderator of the debate will introduce the motion and the rules to the audience, which will case a pre-debate motion. Two speakers each will speak for and against the motion. Each speaker will present an opening statement, followed by questions from the audience. Finally, two speakers will deliver closing statements, for and against.

Summary: The proposed motion will be put to a vote again at the end of the session to decide the final outcome.