

***Subject: Medical Study: Heavy Helmets Should Be Avoided***

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Date:

Mon, 08 Oct 2007 07:22:44 -0400

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Dear Governmental Leaders, Enforcement, and Federal Safety Bureaucrats,

I live in North Carolina, a state which has a universal mandatory helmet law which does not allow my right to use the public highways unless I comply with a motorcycle helmet statute, GS 20-140.4, which, effective January 1, 2008, will reference standards scientifically proven deadly. See medical study reference below. The NC Highway Patrol and NC Governors Highway Safety Program recommended the use of such heavy helmets, compliant with FMVSS 218, in legislative hearings of HB 563.

The democratic principles of a 51% majority are not valid when used to force the minority to choose between surrendering the right to use publicly owned roads or wearing devices proven deadly by competent scientific research. GS 20-140.4 is an unjust and deadly statute. The state government of North Carolina, including those who knowingly enforce this deadly statute, should be held responsible for every motorcycle fatality in which a person unwillingly obeys the statute.

I hereby swear that I shall never willfully wear an FMVSS 218 compliant helmet. Therefore, all use of an FMVSS 218 compliant helmet shall be considered forced. In the event of my death or incapacitation due to a fatal motorcycle accident, I have directed my heirs to determine if I was wearing an FMVSS 218 compliant helmet. If so, I direct my heirs to bring lawsuit against the state of North Carolina, and other individuals and collectives, for knowingly implementing a flawed and deadly regulation.

**I implore the state of North Carolina to repeal GS 20-140.4, making all use of motorcycle helmets voluntary.**

Janice MacKay  
Wake County, NC

**Publication in the Journal of Trauma says AVOID HIGH-WEIGHT HELMETS:**

**Are Fractures of the Base of the Skull Influenced by the Mass of the Protective Helmet? A Retrospective Study in Fatally Injured Motorcyclists.**

## Article

Journal of Trauma-Injury Infection & Critical Care. 41(5):854-858, November 1996.

*Konrad, Ch. J. MD; Fieber, T. S. MD; Schuepfer, G. K. MD, MBA HSG; Gerber, H. R. MD*

### Abstract:

**Study Hypothesis:** Information on the influence of the mass of the helmet on the pattern of head injuries suffered by motorcyclists involved in collisions is scarce. This study was undertaken to verify a possible connection between the weight of the helmet worn and the occurrence of a ring fracture of the base of the skull surrounding the foramen magnum.

**Design:** One hundred twenty-two fatally injured motorcyclists were studied retrospectively. In all cases, an autopsy had been performed. Data, including the autopsy report, were obtained from official police files. All helmets were studied in a technical laboratory. Statistical tests were performed using ANOVA, Fisher's exact test, Student's t test, and the chi sup 2 test. A  $p < 0.05$  was considered significant.

**Results:** The overall incidence of this type of injury was 9.2%. There was a positive correlation between the incidence of complete or partial circular fractures of the base of the skull and the weight of the involved helmet. There was a significant increase ( $p = 0.012$ ) in the incidence of this type of fracture when the helmet weighed more than 1,500 grams. An increase in the dynamic active mass caused by the combination of head and helmet leads to a supramaximal stress load during a collision, resulting in such injuries.

**Conclusions:** In accidents with axial load shift, helmets weighing more than 1,500 grams increase the risk of a basal skull fracture. Therefore **high-weight helmets should be avoided.**

### Source:

<http://www.jtrauma.com/pt/re/jtrauma/abstract.00005373-199611000-00016.htm;jsessionid=HyXBBHRYH7VXL5XyHCV44nnG1JsXCj8Lbm61nTSyYmtxG1jkXq2!1219373867!181195629!8091!-1>