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**Tragedy**



Cohen. To be taken off respirator machines? Photo: Tomeriko

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**Former soccer star Avi Cohen declared brain dead**

**Son of legendary defender announces father's death during Tel Aviv press conference. Family has yet to decide whether to disconnect life support, donate organs or end treatment until Cohen's heart stops**

Neri Brenner

The Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center announced Tuesday that doctors have declared Avi Cohen, one of Israel's biggest past soccer stars, brain dead following a [sever injury](#) caused by a motorcycle accident last week.

Cohen, the former Israel and Liverpool defender, was involved in a collision with a car in Tel Aviv last Monday and was thrown from his motorcycle suffering severe head wounds.

Tamir Cohen, the legendary player's son convened a press conference in Tel Aviv and said that a medical committee had declared his father brain dead "which means he has in fact died."

Tamir added, "I thank the people of Israel for all their help and support, give us time to come to terms with the current state."

The Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center issued a statement Tuesday which noted that the family now has three choices: Organ donation, disconnecting Cohen from respirator machines or ending medical treatment until his heart stops. The family has yet to make a decision.

However, Cohen's death cannot be officially declared despite the fact that a death certificate has already been issued.

The soccer star has been admitted in the Sourasky Medical Center in critical condition for the past eight days.

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