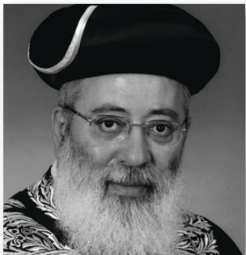
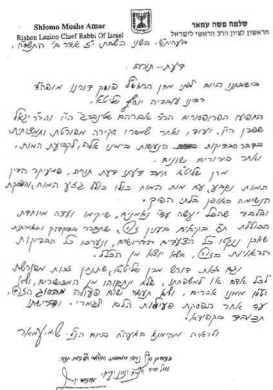


**Sephardic Chief Rabbis**  
accept brain death and support organ donation:

**Rabbi Ovadia Yosef (1973–1983)**  
**Rabbi Mordechai Eliyahu (1983–1993)**  
**Rabbi Eliyahu Bakshi-Doron (1993–2003)**  
**Rabbi Shlomo Amar (2003–2013)**



**CHIEF RABBINATE OF ISRAEL**  
**RABBINIC RULING 17 Adar II, 5768 (2008)**



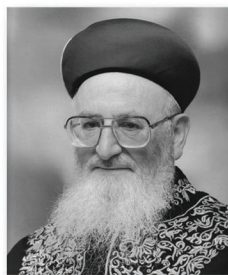
"...death is established upon death of the brain, including the brain-stem, and irreversible cessation of respiration [even if the heart is still beating]. But only on the condition that this determination [of brain death] be done by trustworthy people that include a committee of Torah

scholars that are experts in this area, that they will check that all the appropriate steps were taken to make this determination.

"...families who reject brain death as halachic death have the right to request that the ventilator not be removed and that no organs be recovered for transplantation."

  
Rav Shlomo Amar

  
Rav Ovadia Yosef



**Rabbi Mordechai Eliyahu**  
*Sephardi Chief Rabbi of Israel 1983–1993*

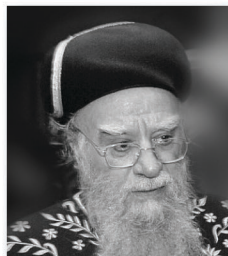
**CHIEF RABBINATE OF ISRAEL**  
**RABBINIC RULING**  
1 Cheshvan 5747 (1986)

"Relying upon the Talmud Yoma (85A) and the ruling of the Chatam Sofer (Yoreh Deah, 338) death is determined by irreversible cessation of breathing. (See Responsa "Igrot Moshe," Chelek 3, 132). Therefore, concerning a donor it should be ascertained that the cessation of breathing is irreversible. This can be determined by proof of complete brain destruction, including the brain-stem which controls autonomous breathing.

"After investigating the criteria for establishing death, as was suggested by physicians in Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem on 8th of Tammuz 5745 and given to the Chief Rabbinate on 5th of Tishrei 5747, we find that it is acceptable according to Halacha – if the objective clinical test BAER was performed on the brain-stem."



Rabbi Mordechai Eliyahu



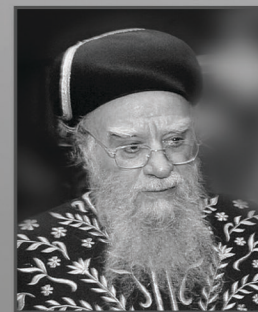
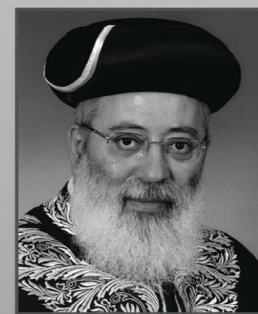
**Rabbi Eliyahu Bakshi-Doron**  
*Sephardi Chief Rabbi of Israel 1993–2003*

"Not only are heart transplants allowed, they are a blessed endeavor to save human life. As the prophet said: 'And

I will remove your stone of heart from within your midst and I shall give you a heart of flesh.'" [Binyan Av, Vol. III, Teshuva 53]

# SEPHARDIC POSKIM

## SUPPORT ORGAN DONATION



**HODS**  
Halachic Organ Donor Society

**MAKE YOUR LAST MITZVAH THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE**