

## **One of New York State's Best Takes On Heart Disease in Women The Innovative Cardiothoracic Practice of Dr. Bell-Thomson & SURGXL**

There's something shocking about heart disease that you might not know: It's the number one killer of women. It claims more women's lives than the next six leading causes of death combined *and* it kills more women than men every year. Why are the fatality numbers so high? Unfortunately, treatment of heart disease in women is hindered by something as simple as size.

"In general, the results of surgery for coronary artery disease in women are worse than their male counterparts," reports board-certified cardiothoracic surgeon John Bell-Thomson, M.D. of SURGXL. "Several reasons are given for this, among which is the fact that women's arteries are smaller and, therefore, technically more challenging when it comes to constructing a bypass."

At SURGXL, which has been rated as providing the best care in the region by the New York State Department of Health, Dr. Bell-Thomson and his staff employ revolutionary new technologies to offer women optimal results from surgical outcomes.

"We use a high-powered operating microscope and have equally good results in both sexes regardless of their age," says Dr. Bell-Thomson. "The microscope is the 'great equalizer' because with variable magnification it allows us to see precisely what we are doing regardless of the size of the coronary arteries."

In conjunction with the advanced technology of the high-powered operating microscope, innovative new techniques like off-pump coronary bypass allow Dr. Bell-Thomson to provide the safest surgical atmosphere for patients.

"Over the past several years, we have perfected our technique for doing coronary bypass surgery without the use of the heart-lung machine and, thus, without the need to

stop the heart or clamp the aorta,” Dr. Bell-Thomson explains. “This is important because multiple scientific publications have confirmed a high incidence of brain damage during open-heart surgery, most often due to the use of the heart-lung machine and the clamping of the aorta.”

When bypass surgery isn't an option, SURGXL patients can now take advantage of new laser technology to help reduce their symptoms of severe angina. Through this procedure, called transmyocardial revascularization, Dr. Bell-Thomson creates tiny channels, typically one millimeter in diameter, into the heart muscle. This reduces symptoms by increasing the blood flow to the heart and stimulating the growth of new small blood vessels within the heart muscle.

For patients who suffer from atrial fibrillation, or irregular heart rhythm, Dr. Bell-Thomson can perform a cryo-maze procedure which is a state-of-the-art treatment that restores the heart to a regular rhythm. When valve heart surgery is needed, Dr. Bell-Thomson has the skill and expertise necessary to repair or replace faulty valves through minimally-invasive approaches.

“We are able to perform a full-range of cardiothoracic surgical procedures,” says Dr. Bell-Thomson. “We are not only committed to making the best medical advances available to our patients, but also to providing care in a patient-centered atmosphere focused on the unique needs of each individual we see.”

*For more information about Dr. Bell-Thomson and SURGXL, or to inquire about self-referral, please call (716)-898-5111. Visit the Website at [www.surgxl.com](http://www.surgxl.com).*