SURGXL Cardiothoracic Services

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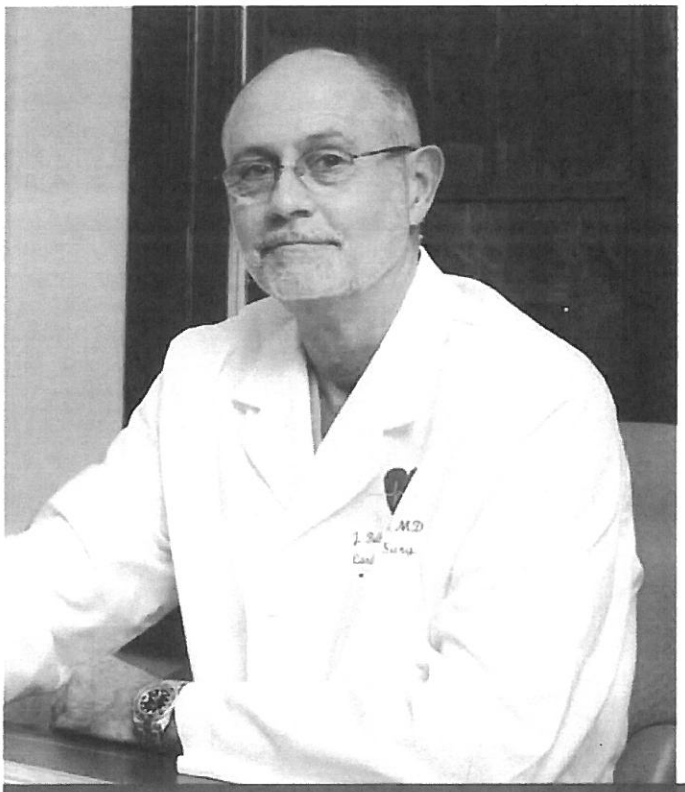

At SURGXL Cardiothoracic Services, Dr. John Bell-Thomson and his staff are dedicated and specially trained in minimally-invasive approaches to heart and heart valve surgery, and use of the most state-of-the-art robotic technology. They strive daily to perfect their technical skills in the furtherance of better care for their patients.

For instance, SURGXL can perform coronary bypass surgery without the need for a heart lung machine, and all the ensuing complications that can be attributed to it. And they are also able to conduct this operation through smaller and smaller incisions, maximizing patient comfort, and minimizing recovery time.

The aortic valve is the one-way outlet valve from the heart which, if plugged, needs to be replaced, either with a mechanical valve or a tissue valve manufactured from the heart of a pig or a cow. At SURGXL, they approach the replacement of the aortic valve through a small incision that takes up only 1/3 of the top end of the breast bone, thus allowing for maintenance of total stability of the chest wall. This approach results in a far more comfortable incision and a faster healing process with virtually no wound complications. And in mitral valve surgery, SURGXL is also able to gain access to the mitral valve through an incision on the right side of the patient's chest that is smaller, more comfortable and less prone to complications then the traditional median sternotomy.

And SURGXL also employs state-of-the art technology for better patient care. The da Vinci® Surgical System operates robotic arms that substitute for the surgeon's hands and hand-held instruments. The surgeon controls it remotely to perform minimally invasive cardiac surgical procedures for coronary bypass surgery and for mitral valve surgery, or even transmyocardial laser revascularization surgery.

SURGXL

Top: Dr. John Bell-Thomson, at right, uses a high-powered microscope during coronary bypass surgery. The microscope magnifies the surgical connection up to 20 times its size; photo by Terry Vine.
Bottom: Dr. Bell-Thomson; photo by Nancy J. Parisi.