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Does your doctor hear your voice?

You can always count on an interesting discussion on **WomenHeart's Online Community** for women with heart disease. Four-time heart attack survivor Jaynie, AKA Martzj, opened up a new conversation recently, "About listening and male/female voice differences" in which she wondered if male doctors have trouble hearing the concerns of their female patients because of vocal differences that were studied at the University of Sheffield in the United Kingdom.

The **study** (<http://www.shef.ac.uk/mediacentre/2005/422.html>) shows that the human brain hears male and female voices differently and that women's voices are more complex — due to size differences in the larynx and vocal cords. According to the research, a man's brain first interprets a woman's voice as music (rather than as speech, which is how a man hears a male voice), which creates a challenge for him when he tries to decipher the words. Jaynie hypothesized that this is why female patients may have had difficult interactions with male physicians, although other Heart Sisters were quick to respond that they have had equally frustrating experiences with female doctors.

All in all, an interesting conversation and well worth the free membership! Join **the WomenHeart online community** today and voice your opinion.