

A Man of the Heart

Poets may muse upon the incomprehensible depths of the human heart, but Dr. Deepak Khanna has a pretty good grasp of it. Dr. Khanna is a cardiologist at Oroville Hospital and operates the state-of-the-art transesophageal echocardiogram (TEE) imaging system used for advanced analysis of patients' hearts. The machine was acquired less than a year ago and has taken Oroville Hospital's heart-analyzing prowess to the next and highest level.

The TEE is essentially an imaging system inserted down one's food pipe and into his or her stomach for the closest possible view of the heart without breaking skin. Its use generally follows an initial analysis with the simpler transthoracic echocardiogram and produces immediate results which can identify a range of maladies and conditions that may slip past other gadgetry.

"The transesophageal echocardiogram allows us to better visualize the heart's structures and better assess your heart valves and make sure that they are healthy," Dr. Khanna explains. He adds that the TEE is a machine that not all hospitals have and that it can also detect structural heart diseases like atrial septal defect, ventricular septal defect, or any other defects that the transthoracic echo imaging system may be unable to identify.

"The TEE may also detect heart abnormalities that can cause strokes and can also diagnose infections of the heart, in which aggressive bacteria invade the heart valves and cause leaks and malfunctioning."

Dr. Khanna says the TEE has detected

such infections in several patients since he began using the machine just eight months ago.

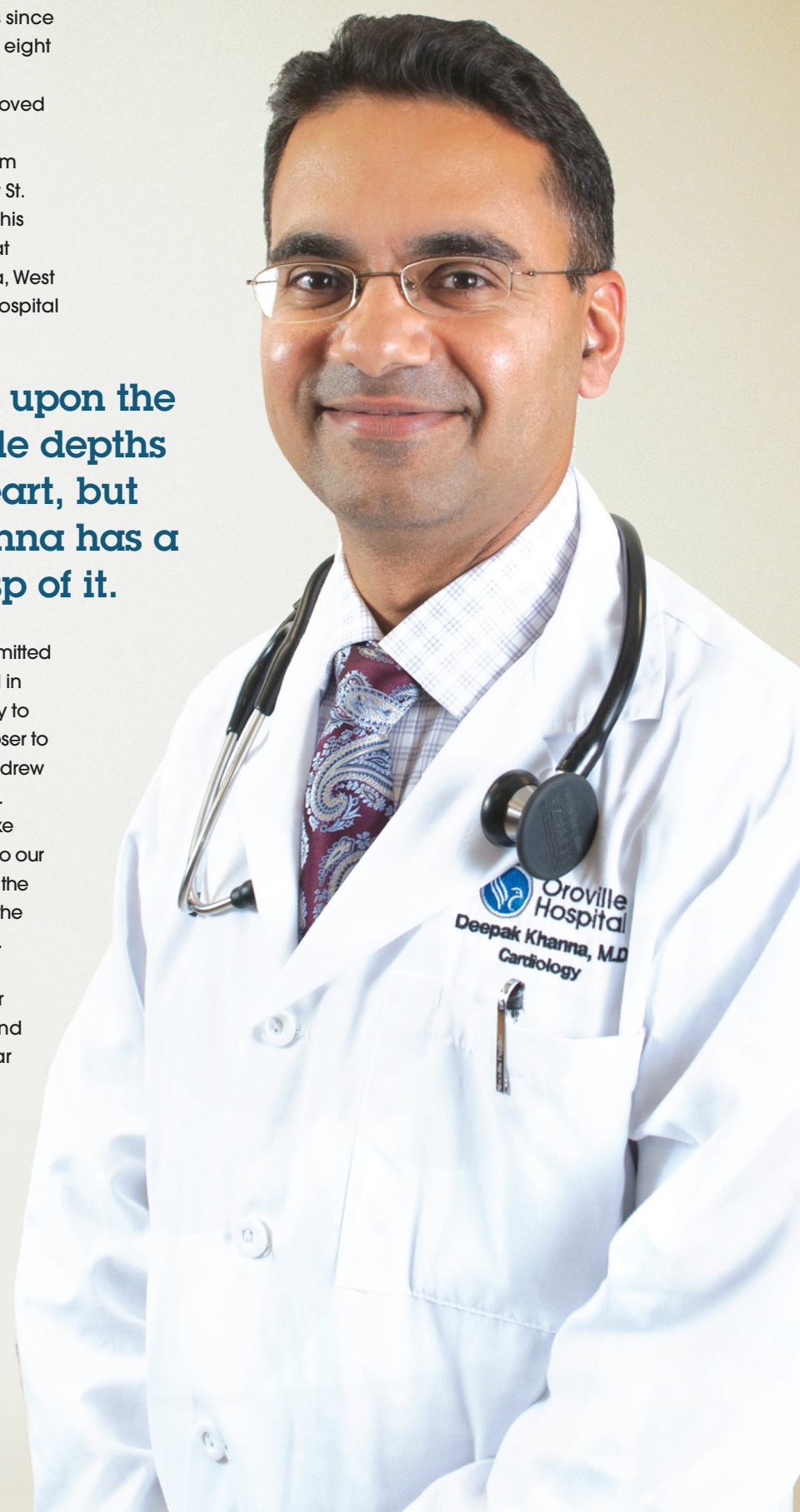
A native of India, Dr. Khanna moved to the United States in 1987 and received a bachelors' degree from UC Davis and medical training at St. Georges University. He fine-tuned his education in various capacities at Kaiser Permanente in Santa Clara, West Virginia University, and Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City.

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Today, Dr. Khanna remains committed to his field and has sub-specialized in interventional cardiology. His ability to use the TEE brings him one step closer to the fixture of the human body that drew him into medicine in the first place.

"With state-of-the-art equipment like the TEE, we can provide better care to our patients at risk of having infection of the heart valves as well as determining the danger of a stroke," Dr. Khanna says.

When Oroville Hospital's lead cardiologist takes pictures of your body's most poetically alluring and physiologically complex muscular organ, the images are crystal clear.



Oroville Hospital