

interstitial scaffolding affects diastolic function and the amount of ventricular dilation. Mitral regurgitation commonly develops as the valvular apparatus is distorted and is usually substantial by the time heart failure is severe. Many cases that present “acutely” have progressed silently through these stages over months to years. Dilation and decreased function of the right ventricle may result directly from the initial injury, but more often develops later in response to elevated afterload presented by secondary pulmonary hypertension and in relation to mechanical interactions with the failing left ventricle.

TABLE 259-4 Major Causes of Dilated Cardiomyopathy (with Common Examples)