**Figure 1b.** Minor recurrent aphthous stomatitis ulcerative lesion on lower labial mucosa

- **By contrast,** major RAS is distinguished from minor RAS because the lesions of major RAS come together forming much larger lesions that are greater than 10 millimeters in size. These lesions can be extremely painful and cause a-patients to change their eating and drinking habits to avoid the discomfort. These lesions can persist for weeks, even several weeks to months at a time. Seven to 15 percent of RAS are of this type major. These lesions are typically seen on a patient’s lips, tongue, soft palate, and palatal faucets. The size and duration of these lesions can sometimes lead to soft tissue scarring.

**Figure 2.** Major recurrent aphthous stomatitis ulcerative lesion

- **Herpetiform RAS** is the least common form of aphthous ulcers and has been reported to represent 5 to 10 percent of lesions seen in patients. These lesions usually cluster together in groups of 10 to 100, often in the posterior areas of the mouth, have small pinpoint multiple clusters in appearance, and are usually very small in groupings of 10 to 100 usually in the posterior areas of the mouth. These lesions can last 7 to 30 days and can grow to become larger coalesced lesions with the potential for scarring. Even though these lesions appear to be herpetiform in appearance, herpes simplex virus cannot be recovered from these lesions.

No matter what type of RAS a patient has, they are located on nonkeratinized mucosal tissues of the mouth. Some patients will report feeling localized pain or a burning sensation that 24 to 48 hours before the ulcer appears the patient has had a localized pain or burning sensation. Most patients will report that they have recurrences two to four times a year; however, some patients may have an almost continuous series of ulcers where some will appear as earlier ones are healing.

**Figure 3.** Herpetiform recurrent aphthous stomatitis

| Table 1. Characteristics of recurrent aphthous ulcer (stomatitis) (RAU or RAS) |