

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

• ~~By contrast, m~~Major RAS is distinguished from minor RAS because the lesions of major RAS come together ~~forming to form~~ 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.⁷ Seven to ~~15-fifteen~~ percent of RAS are ~~of this type~~ major. These lesions are typically seen on a patient's lips, tongue, soft palate, ~~and~~ palatal fauces. The size and duration of these lesions can sometimes lead to soft tissue scarring.

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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.^{5,7,9} 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 10-100 usually in the posterior areas of the mouth.~~ They 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.¹⁰

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No matter what type of RAS ~~a patient has~~, they are located on nonkeratinized mucosal tissues of the mouth.^{2,4,11} Some patients will report feeling localized pain or a burning sensation that 24 to -48 hours before the ulcer actually appears ~~the patient has had a localized pain or burning sensation.~~⁴ Most patients will report that they have recurrences ~~2-4~~ two to four times a year; however, some patients may have an almost continuous series of ulcers where in some will appear as earlier ones are healing.⁴

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Figure 3. Herpetiform recurrent aphthous stomatitis

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