Snare-tip spray spark coagulation technique for bleeding secondary to gastric antral vascular ectasia

Gastric antral vascular ectasia is a condition characterized by dilatation of blood vessels in the gastric mucosa. Argon plasma coagulation (APC) was reportedly effective in treating the condition with progressive anemia [1–5]. However, APC requires special equipment and probe preparation. We developed a new method called the "snare-tip spray spark coagulation technique" to treat bleeding secondary to gastric antral vascular ectasia without using APC. Spray coagulation and Endo Spray coagulation utilize a high output voltage with an interrupted waveform using VIO 300 D (ERBE Elektromedizin, Tuebingen, Germany) and maXium (Gebrüder Martin GmbH & Co. KG, Tuttlingen, Germany). When a high output voltage is applied to the tip of a snare, coagulation is achieved by a spark along an electric arc (▶ Fig. 1).

▶ Video 1 shows how to perform this technique in animal model, followed by its use for hemostasis of an actual bleed secondary to gastric antral vascular ectasia.

A woman in her 80 s with a history of myocardial infarction, on aspirin, visited our institution for a routine checkup. Hematology revealed anemia, with the patient having a hemoglobin level of 7.0 g/dL. Upper gastrointestinal endoscopy was performed to localize bleeding sources (▶ Fig. 2). Telangiectasia, consistent with gastric antral vascular ectasia, was detected. The telangiectasia was observed to be oozing blood, and hemostasis was achieved using the snare-tip spray spark coagulation technique. Blood transfusion and iron administration were initiated, and a repeat upper gastrointestinal endoscopy was performed the following day to confirm hemostasis. No spontaneous bleeding was observed. The patient started eating 3 days later and was discharged 8 days later without progression of anemia. At 1 month, follow-up endoscopy showed an ulcerated scar where gastric antral vascular ectasia was previously observed. The patient was noted to have no further progression of anemia. The snare-tip spray spark coagulation technique successfully achieved hemo-
Stasis for bleeding secondary to gastric antral vascular ectasia without the use of APC.

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**Competing interests**
The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

**The authors**
Koudai Hamaguchi¹, Tatsuma Nomura¹, Keiichi Ito¹, Makoto Kobayashi²

¹ Department of Gastroenterology, Mie Prefectural Shima Hospital, Shima, Mie, Japan
² Department of Gastroenterology, Yokkaichi Municipal Hospital, Yokkaichi, Mie, Japan

**Corresponding author**

Tatsuma Nomura, MD
Department of Gastroenterology, Mie Prefectural Shima Hospital, 1257 Ugata, Ago, Shima, Mie 517-0595, Japan
Fax: +81-599-43-2507
m06076tn@icloud.com

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*[Fig. 2]* Actual hemostasis in the gastric antral vascular ectasia using snare-tip spray spark coagulation. 

*a* The gastric antral vascular ectasia in the gastric antrum. 

*b* Hemostasis with the snare-tip spark was performed using snare-tip spray spark coagulation. 

*c* Gastric mucosa after snare-tip spray spark coagulation. 

*d* Ulcer scars 1 month after hemostasis using snare-tip spray spark coagulation.

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