A 60-year-old man suffering from esophageal cancer was admitted to our hospital due to tarry stools. He had difficulty with oral intake due to stricture caused by the esophageal cancer and received his nutrition via gastrostomy. Laboratory findings revealed severe anemia, and gastrointestinal bleeding was therefore suspected. The stricture caused by the esophageal cancer made it impossible to pass the gastrointestinal endoscope. As a last resort, therefore, endoscopy via the gastrostomy was attempted in order to identify and treat the source of bleeding. We were able to pass the gastrointestinal scope (Olympus XP260N; Olympus Corp., Tokyo, Japan), via the gastrostomy port into the stomach (Fig. 1).

Oozing of blood was observed from a lesion in the body of the stomach (Fig. 2). Endoscopic hemostasis was achieved using argon plasma coagulation (Fig. 3) after changing the scope to an Olympus Q260.

Computed tomographic examination revealed that the bleeding was caused by invasion of the stomach by a cancerous lymph node (No. 3) (Fig. 4).

It is therefore suggested that in patients with a gastrostomy, the gastrostomy tube may serve as a valid alternative approach for endoscopy.

Competing interests: None

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