

## Effects of Breed and Number of Embryos Transferred on the Efficacy of MOET in Sheep

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**Abstract :** This study aimed to evaluate the effects of sheep breed and the number of embryos transferred on the success of multiple ovulation and embryo transfer (MOET). Sixteen Najdi and Naeimi ewes were used as donors. Multiple ovulation was achieved using equine chorionic gonadotropin (eCG). Thirty-five recipient ewes were divided into four groups: Najdi or Naeimi ewes that received either one or two embryos. After lambing, the gestation length, litter size, and sex of the lambs were recorded. The rates of pregnancy, lambing, and embryo survival were lower in the recipient Najdi than Naeimi ewes when two embryos were transferred. In contrast, the Naeimi ewes that received one embryo had a significantly lower embryo transfer success. In conclusion, the response of ewes to multiple ovulation stimulation using eCG was significantly high in Naeimi ewes ( $9.8 \pm 1.17$ ). Moreover, transferring one embryo resulted in a significantly high pregnancy rate in the Najdi sheep (60%).

**Keywords :** embryo transfer, multiple ovulation, Najdi, Naeimi, sheep

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