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Revised

Effect of different chorionic gonadotropins on final growth of the dominant follicle in *Bos indicus* cows

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to evaluate the effect of eCG or hCG on the final growth of the dominant follicle in Nelore (*Bos indicus*) cows submitted to fixed-time AI (FTAI). Eighty-four lactating cows with body condition score (BCS) of 2.9 (range 1-5) were used. At a random day of the estrous cycle (D0) cows received 2 mg estradiol benzoate and a reused intravaginal progesterone device (1.9 g). At D8, when the device was removed, 0.5 mg cloprostenol and 1 mg estradiol cypionate was given i.m., and cows were randomly assigned to receive on D8 one of the following treatments: Control (no treatment; n = 17), eCG (300 IU i.m.; n = 17), hCG 300 (300 IU i.m.; n = 18), hCG 200 IM (200 IU i.m.; n = 16) and hCG 200 SC (200 IU s.c.; n = 16). On the same day and 2 days later, cows were subjected to ovarian ultrasonography to evaluate the diameter of the largest follicle and to calculate follicular growth rate (D8 to D10). No differences were observed for the diameter of the largest follicle on D8 (P = 0.3) or D10 (P = 0.4) among treatments. However, the growth rate of the dominant follicle between D8 and