Is the percentage of transfers that result in a good perinatal outcome affected by the number of embryos transferred?

Figure 26 shows the relationship between the number of fresh nondonor eggs or embryos transferred and a good perinatal outcome among ART cycles performed in 2012 that resulted in the transfer of one or more embryos. A good perinatal outcome is defined as the live birth of a singleton infant at 37 or more full weeks of pregnancy and with a normal birth weight of at least 2,500 grams (about 5 pounds, 8 ounces). The percentage of transfers resulting in a good perinatal outcome decreased as the number of embryos transferred increased, from approximately 26% among cycles that involved the transfer of one embryo to 13% among cycles that involved the transfer of four or more embryos. Transferring more embryos increases the chance for a multiple-fetus pregnancy. Multiple-fetus pregnancies are associated with increased risk of adverse outcomes for mothers and infants, including higher rates of prematurity, low birth weight, and pregnancy complications. See Figure 28 on page 34 for more details about percentages of transfers that resulted in live births and multiple births, by number of embryos transferred, among younger patients with a prognosis for a good perinatal outcome.

Figure 26
Percentages of Transfers Using Fresh Nondonor Eggs or Embryos That Resulted in a Good Perinatal Outcome, by Number of Embryos Transferred, 2012