

Excerpt from JBJS Style Guide

Hyphenation (last updated 4/1/16)

Combined Words

Prefixes

In general, prefixes combine with a root word to form one word.

ante (antenatal)

anti (antiplatelet)

extra (extraosseous)

hyper (hyperextend, hyperreflexia)

inter (interosseous pre (preoperative) interobserver)

intra (intraoperative)

juxta (juxtaphyseal, juxtapositional)

macro (macrostructure)

mal (malunion, malunited)

micro (microfracture)

multi (multidisciplinary, multisystem, multidrug)

non (nonoperative)

over (overreduction, overriding)

re (readmit, regain)

semi (semiconstrained, semiprivate, semithin [exception: semi-sedentary])

sub (suboptimum, subtotal)

supra (supraconductive, supracondylar)

ultra (ultrathin)

Use a hyphen only according to Webster's Dictionary. If the word is not in Webster's, check Dorland's. Also use a hyphen when the root begins with a capital letter.

EXAMPLES: anti-Parkinson, pseudo-Charcot

NOTE: We no longer hyphenate many of the words we once did, such as those with double vowels and words beginning with non.

(EXCEPTION: We will continue to use a hyphen in the word semi-sedentary and in words with a double "n" such as non-normal.)

Suffixes

Most suffixes combine with the root to form one word.

fold (tenfold)

most (distalmost)

Anatomical Directions

Use the combination form of anatomical directions when the direction represents a single position or movement. For anatomical directions that end in "-ior," change the ending to "-o" before combining.

EXAMPLES

posterolateral

superoanterior

NOTE: The term "anterior inferior iliac spine" and "posterior superior iliac spine" are the actual anatomical names of those parts of the ilium so the terms should not be combined. Check in Dorland's if there is any question about similar terms.

Use a hyphen with both roots when the direction represents more than one movement.

EXAMPLE

anterior-posterior displacement

Anatomical Adjectives

For anatomical adjectives, change the adjectival ending to "-o" before combining to make one word.

arterial (arteriosclerosis)

atrial (atrioventricular)

calcaneal (calcaneonavicular)

cervical (cervicothoracic)

cortical (corticocancellous)

dorsal (dorsolateral) [The "-o" becomes an "-i" in dorsiflexion.]

femoral (femoropopliteal)

lumbar (lumbosacral)

metacarpal (metacarpophalangeal)

metatarsal (metatarsophalangeal)

radial (radioulnar)

sacral (sacroiliac)

tibial (tibiofemoral)

thoracic (thoracolumbar)

Separate Words

The words "ill" and "well" are hyphenated when used with other words, such as ill-defined, well-chosen, well-known, to modify a noun.

EXAMPLE

The patient sustained an ill-defined injury to the shoulder.

The parameters were ill defined.

Some words retain their Latin form (two words) only under specific conditions.

EXAMPLES

Postpartum, postmortem

These are the English terms. Write each as one word when it is used as an adjective.

EXAMPLE

postmortem examination

Retain the Latin form (two separate words) when it is used as a noun or adverb.

EXAMPLE

Three weeks post partum

NOTE: Do not italicize these words, regardless of their part of speech.

Other Words

Use Merriam-Webster's dictionary as the guide for hyphenation and spelling. (If a word is not commonly used in the unhyphenated version and/or the author objects to the unhyphenated version, the hyphen can be used.) It is best to err on the side of not hyphenating compound terms, unless the absence of a hyphen would cause confusion. The following is an alphabetical list of some words and phrases used in The Journal that raise questions of combination and hyphenation.

acid-fast bacillus

age group

age range
airborne
airflow
anti-inflammatory
Austin Moore prosthesis
baseline
bedbound
bed rest
bedding-in
benchmark
blood cell (use hyphen in “blood-cell count”)
bloodborne
bloodstream
body mass index (not hyphenated unless author has done so; if so, be consistent within paper)
bone graft
bone-grafting
brain stem
cannot
cast-brace
cement mantle
chairbound
clear-cut
covalently
clubfoot
compact disc
contraindicate
crosshatch
crosshead
cross-link
cross section
cross-sectional (hyphenate only when used as a preceding modifier)
cross talk
database
debridement and debride (we do not use accent over the first “e”)
disc space
downregulate or downregulation
drill-bit
drill-hole
dropfoot
end plate
end point
end result
femoroacetabular
fingernail
fingertip
finite element analysis [model]
flatfoot
follow-up
followed up
footdrop
foot-plate
foot-switch
forefoot

fracture-dislocation
fracture-healing
giving-way
gram-negative bacillus
guidewire
guide-pin or guide pin (either is fine, but be consistent within the paper)
halo cast
halo traction
health care (noun) and health-care (adjective)
heel-off
heel-strike
hemiprosthesi
hindfoot
Hohmann retractor
Homans sign
hylan G-F 20 (a hyaluronan product manufactured by Synvisc)
in-depth (hyphenate only when used as a preceding modifier)
inpatient
intra-articular
interrater
intrarater
least squared means
level-I trauma center (use roman numerals)
life span
lifestyle
life table
long-term (hyphenate only when used as a preceding modifier)
low-molecular-weight heparin
Mallory-Head prosthesis
midpart
minipig
nail-plate
nerve root
online
osteoid osteoma
outpatient
part time
pinprick
pin site
pin track
pivot shift
plate-holder
polymerase chain reaction assay [test, analysis]
postgraduate
posttraumatic
preexisting
problem-solving
saw-cut
scatterplot
side effect
skewfoot
strain gauge
suction-irrigation

time frame
time point
Trapezoidal-28 prosthesis
ultra-high molecular weight polyethylene
upregulate or upregulation
wavelength
weight-bearing
wheelchair
worthwhile
wound-healing
zigzagging
z-plasty

Other Hyphenated Words

Use a hyphen in otherwise nonhyphenated words when the phrase is an adjective and is preceded by an adjective, if necessary to avoid confusion.

EXAMPLE

acute long-bone fracture
serious donor-site morbidity

Use a hyphen when a word and a number (or letter) are used together as an adjective.

EXAMPLE

Type-II fracture
Group-1 patients
Grade-C outcome