

Excerpt from JBJS Style Guide

Units and Measurements (last updated 4/1/16)

Use numerals instead of writing out numbers:

2 mm
8°
20%
30 in
80 g/L
20°C
6 points
35 patients

EXCEPT

Occasionally in conversational speech (e.g., “there are two ways of doing the procedure,” and “the operation was done by one of the authors”)

When beginning a sentence (e.g., “Thirty-six fractures were fixed with IM nailing.”)

Use a space between the number and unit (2 mm), except for percentages (3%) and degrees (3° and 3°C).

Use no space between signs and units (e.g., -1 mm, >1 mm, +1).

Use a 0 before the period for decimals (e.g., 0.05, NOT .05)

Follow all conventional units of measure (e.g., in, ft, and lb) with the metric conversion in parentheses, the first time that the conventional unit appears—e.g., 79 in (93 cm)

If Fahrenheit is used, insert Celsius value in parentheses.

Round up when a decimal place is ≥ 5 (e.g., 3.5 rounds UP to 4, not down to 3; however, 3.4 rounds DOWN to 3).

Round percentages to the nearest 1%, unless they are based on a number of ≥ 200 —e.g., “5 (18.5%) of 27 patients” would be changed to “5 (19%) of 27 patients”—or if there is a slight difference between the percentages being compared (e.g., 3.2% compared with 3.4%).