

## AMA Manual of Style

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### Parentheses and Brackets

Cheryl Iverson

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Parentheses and brackets are internal punctuation marks used to set off material that is nonrestrictive or, as in the case of mathematical and chemical expressions, to alert the reader to the special functions occurring within. | Use parentheses to indicate supplementary explanations, identification, direction to the reader, or translation. (See also , Dashes, and , Brackets.) A known volume of fluid (100 mL) was injected. The differences were not significant ( $P > .05$ ). One of us (B.O.G.) saw the patient in 2006. Asymmetry of the upper part of the rib cage (patient 5) and pseudarthrosis of the first and second ribs (patient

### Parentheses

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Use parentheses to indicate supplementary explanations, identification, direction to the reader, or translation. (See also , Dashes, and , Brackets.) A known volume of fluid (100 mL) was injected. The differences were not significant ( $P > .05$ ). One of us (B.O.G.) saw the patient in 2006. Asymmetry of the upper part of the rib cage (patient 5) and pseudarthrosis of the first and second ribs (patient 8) were incidental anomalies (Table 3). Of the 761 hospitalized patients, 171 (22.5%) were infants (younger than 1 year). In this issue of JAMA (p 1037), a successful transplant is reported. The 3 cusps of the

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Brackets are used to indicate editorial interpolation within a quotation and to enclose corrections, explanations, or comments in material that is quoted. (See also , Quotation Marks, Quotations; , Ellipses, Change in Capitalization; and , Ellipses, Omission of

Ellipses.)“Enough questions had arisen [these are not described] to warrant medical consultation.” Thompson stated, “Because of the patient’s preferences, surgery was absolutely contraindicated [italics added].” “The following year [1947] was a turning point.” Note: Use sic (Latin for “thus” or “so”) in brackets to indicate an error or peculiarity in the spelling or grammar of the preceding word in the original source