

AMA Manual of Style

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Trivial Names

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Drugs occasionally become known by an unofficial trivial name. The trivial name should be used in biomedical publications only to reproduce the exact language used as part of a study (eg, in a questionnaire), for historical reasons, or rarely when readers may be unfamiliar with the nonproprietary name. When reproducing the exact language used in a study, the nonproprietary name should be provided in brackets after the term used in the study. The participants were asked, “Have you ever taken AZT [zidovudine] or ddI [didanosine]?” Participants who said they had taken zidovudine or didanosine were classified as having had prior exposure