

# AMA Manual of Style

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## Fractional Exponents vs Radicals

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Use of radicals may sometimes be avoided by substituting a fractional exponent:  $(a^2-b^2)^{1/2}$  instead of  $a^2-b^2$ . As with unstacking fractions, if clarity is sacrificed by making the equation fit within the text, it is preferable to set it off. For example,  $E = 1.96 \{ [P (1 - P)]/m \}^{1/2}$  fits within the text, but the centered  $E=1.96P(1-P)m$  might be more easily understood. |