

AJTCVM Abbreviation Guidelines

Key Abbreviation Rules for AJTCVM

- Abbreviations should be used sparingly, generally only for terms repeated at least three times in the text, figures, or tables.
- First page of each article, a list of abbreviations used in the paper (abbreviation box) will be listed.
- Abbreviations will be included in the abbreviation box, spelled out at first mention in the abstract, and spelled out again at first mention in the main text.
- An author should use the spelled out term when starting a sentence; do not use an abbreviation to start a sentence; an author can also use the spelled out term for emphasis when summarizing findings at the beginning of the Discussion area and again in Summary/Conclusion areas.
- Names of related words/numbers that are more than 2 words long (e.g. CDK 4/6 = cyclin dependent kinase 4/6) will be written completely out in the abbreviation box, but not in the main text of the article. Long word strings interrupt the flow of a text, make for a poor reading experience, and the abbreviation can be easily found in the abbreviation box.
- Only use the trademark sign (® or ™) once at the beginning of an article and then not again.
- Journal titles: Abbreviate journal titles according to the NLM Catalog (e.g. J Am Vet Med Assoc, not JAVMA; Am J Trad Chin Vet Med, not AJTCVM).
- Tables/Figures: Define abbreviations alphabetically in the table/figure legend, not inside the table or figure body itself.
- Drugs/Equipment: Abbreviations should be placed in the abbreviation box; use generic names and only use proprietary names if essential, with manufacturer details in a footnote, not in the main text.

I. Standard abbreviations (used without expansion)

Abbreviations listed below may be used without definition because they are widely accepted and unambiguous in veterinary and biomedical literature. Authors should ensure correct and consistent usage throughout the manuscript.

1. Units, time, routes, and dosing

Units and time

- kg – kilogram(s)
- mg – milligram(s)
- hr – hour(s)
- ms – milliseconds
- BW – body weight
- lb – pound(s); lbs – pounds

Dosing frequency

- q – each / every (dosing interval)
- QD – once daily
- SID – once daily

- BID – twice daily
- TID – three times daily

Routes of administration

- IV – intravenous
- IM – intramuscular
- SC – subcutaneous
- SQ – subcutaneous
- PO – per os (oral)

2. Common clinical and biomedical abbreviations

Clinical laboratory, diagnostic, and anatomic terms

- CBC – complete blood count
- WBC – white blood cell count
- PLT – platelet count
- Hb – hemoglobin
- BUN – blood urea nitrogen
- CRE – creatinine
- ECG – electrocardiography
- CNS – central nervous system

Common biomedical terms

- Ig – immunoglobulin
- IgA – immunoglobulin A
- IgE – immunoglobulin E
- IgG – immunoglobulin G
- IL – interleukin
- TNF- α – tumor necrosis factor-alpha

3. Acupuncture common terms

Meridians and Channels - Use abbreviation for Meridians/Channels

- BL – Bladder
- GB – Gallbladder
- HT – Heart
- KID – Kidney
- LIV – Liver
- LU – Lung
- SI – Small Intestine
- SP – Spleen
- ST – Stomach
- TH – Triple Heater
- PC – Pericardium
- CV – Conception Vessel (*Ren Mai*)
- GV – Governing Vessel (*Du Mai*)

Transpositional acupoints - Use Meridian abbreviation followed by a dash and number of acupoint

Examples:

- BL-14 would represent Bladder 14
- GV-1 would represent Governing Vessel 1
- LI-18 would represent Large Intestine 18
- PC-1 would represent Pericardium 1
- SI-16 would represent Small Intestine 16
- TH-15 would represent Triple Heater 15

4. Statistics terminology

- CI – confidence interval
- SD – standard deviation
- SEM – standard error of the mean

II. Technical terms (Terms included in abbreviation list, first page of paper)

Abbreviations listed below will be included in the list of abbreviations at the beginning of a paper and spelled out at first mention in the abstract, but will not be spelled out again at first mention in the main text. Authors should use abbreviations only when they improve clarity and readability.

5. Clinical conditions, outcomes, and research terminology

- COPD – chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- DJD – degenerative joint disease
- IVDD – intervertebral disc disease
- QOL – quality of life
- RCT – randomized controlled trial
- OD – oculus dexter (right eye)
- OS – oculus sinister (left eye)

6. Pharmacologic, endocrine, and biologic terminology

- NSAID – non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug
- SAMe – S-adenosylmethionine
- MSM – methylsulfonylmethane
- TSH – thyroid-stimulating hormone
- Th1 – T-helper type 1 cell
- Th2 – T-helper type 2 cell
- Treg – T regulatory cells

7. Professional titles and institutional terminology

- CVA – certified veterinary acupuncturist
- CVT – certified veterinary technician
- rDVM – primary referral veterinarian
- VTH – veterinary teaching hospital

8. TCVM, acupuncture, and related terminology

General TCVM and integrative medicine terms

- TCM – traditional Chinese medicine
- TCVM – traditional Chinese veterinary medicine
- CHM – Chinese herbal medicine
- CWM – conventional Western medicine
- BM – Balance Method
- BMA – Balance Method Acupuncture

Acupuncture modalities and techniques

- AP – acupuncture
- DNAP – dry needle acupuncture
- EAP – electro-acupuncture
- LAP – laser acupuncture
- HA – hemo-acupuncture
- SAP – scalp acupuncture
- mSAP – modified scalp acupuncture
- aqua-AP – aqua-acupuncture
- moxa – moxibustion

9. Specialized laser parameters

- Nfr – Nogier laser frequency
- Rfr – Reininger laser frequency
- PBMT – photobiomodulation therapy
- LLLT – low level laser therapy