

IMMUNOGLOBULINS M

IgM is a polymer, where multiple immunoglobulins are linked together by strong covalent bonds known as disulfide bonds. This occurs mostly to produce pentamers (5 linked immunoglobulins) . IgM has a molecular mass of approximately 970 kDa (in its pentamer form). Because each immunoglobulin monomer has two antigen binding sites, a pentameric IgM has 10 binding sites. Typically, however, IgM cannot bind 10 antigens at the same time because the large size of most antigens hinders binding to nearby sites.

IgM antibodies appear early in the course of an infection and usually reappear, to a lesser extent, after further exposure. IgM antibodies do not pass across the human placenta .

These two biological properties of IgM make it useful in the diagnosis of infectious diseases. Demonstrating IgM antibodies in a patient's serum indicates recent infection, or in a neonate's serum indicates intrauterine infection.

Description	Abbr.	Cat No.	Remarks
Goat anti-human IgM polyclonal antibodies	pAb<IgM>G IgG	SDZ700240	EIA / WB