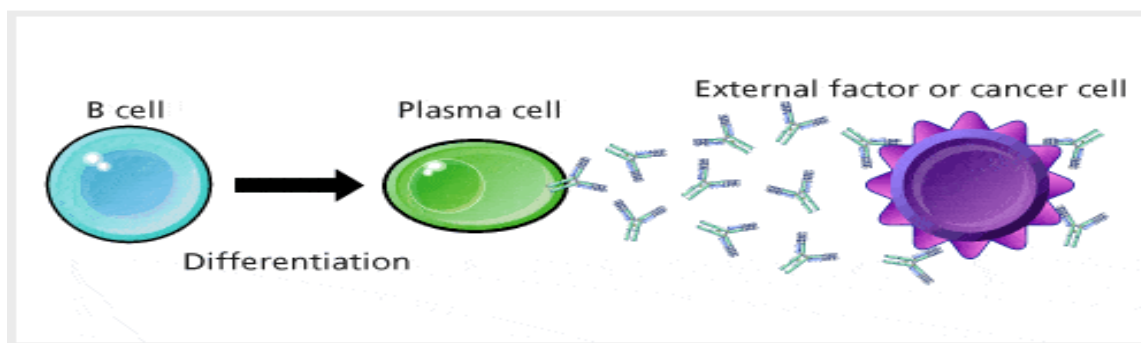


# IMMUNOGLOBULINS

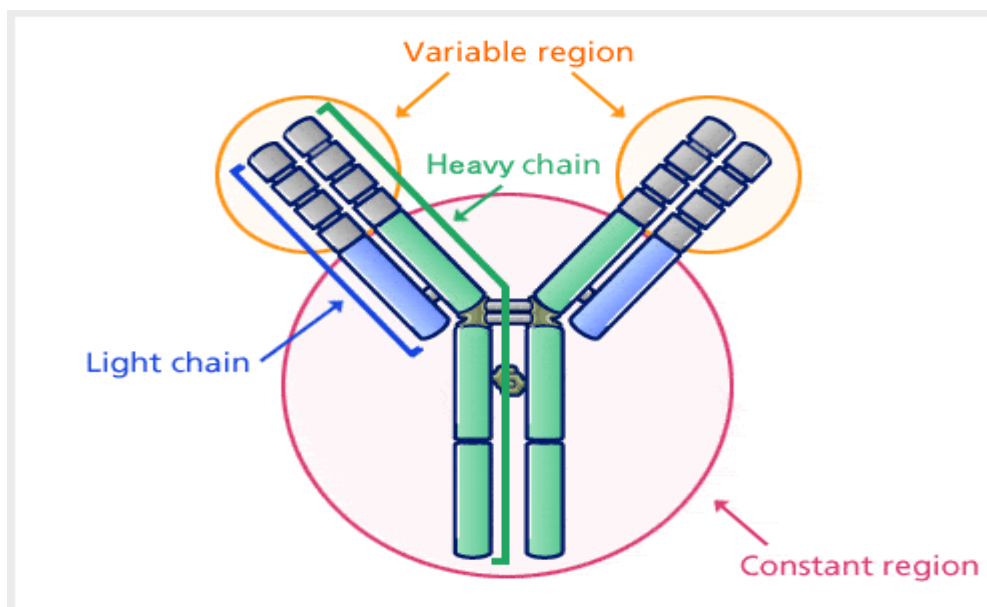
## Antibody- *Structure, Classes and Functions*

Antibody (Ab) also known as Immunoglobulin (Ig) is the large Y shaped protein produced by the body's immune system when it detects harmful substances, called antigens like bacteria and viruses. The production of antibodies is a major function of the immune system and is carried out by a type of white blood cell called a B cell (B lymphocyte), differentiated B cells called plasma cells. The produced antibodies bind to specific antigens expressed in external factors and cancer cells.

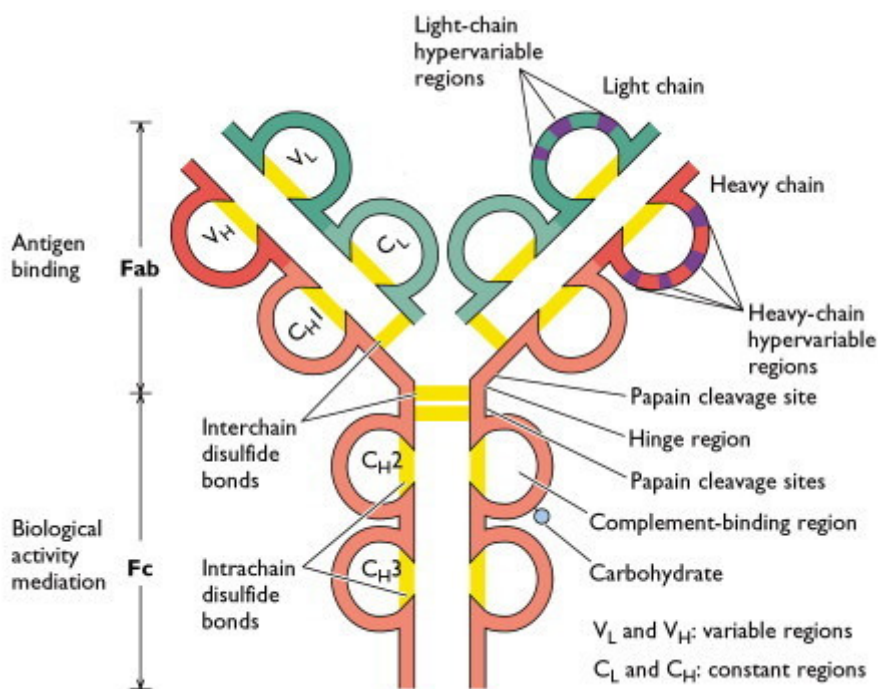


## Structure of Antibody

Antibodies are heavy (~150 kDa) globular plasma proteins.



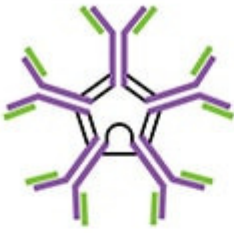

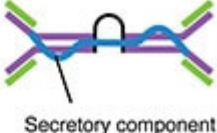


The basic structure of all antibodies are same. There are four polypeptide chains: two identical **heavy chains** and two identical **light chains** connected by disulfide bonds. Light Chain (L) consists polypeptides of about 22,000 Da and Heavy Chain (H) consists larger polypeptides of around 50,000 Da or more. There are five types of Ig **heavy chain** (in mammal) denoted by the Greek letters:  $\alpha$ ,  $\delta$ ,  $\epsilon$ ,  $\gamma$ , and  $\mu$ . There are two types of Ig **light chain** (in mammal), which are called lambda ( $\lambda$ ) and kappa ( $\kappa$ ). An antibody is made up of a variable region and a constant region, and the region that changes to various structures depending on differences in antigens is called the **variable region**, and the region that has a constant structure is called the **constant region**.



Each heavy and light chain in an immunoglobulin molecule contains an amino-terminal variable (V) region that consists of 100 to 110 amino acids and differ from one antibody to another. The remainder of each chain in the molecule – the constant (C) region exhibits limited variation that defines the two light chain subtypes and the five heavy chains subclasses. Some heavy chains ( $\alpha$ ,  $\delta$ ,  $\gamma$ ) also contain a proline-rich hinge region. The amino terminal portions, corresponding to the V regions, bind to antigen; effector functions are mediated by the carboxy-terminal domains. The  $\epsilon$  and  $\mu$  heavy chains, which lack a hinge region, contain an additional domain in the middle of the molecule. CHO denotes a carbohydrate group linked to the heavy chain.

# Classes/Types of Antibody

Serum containing antigen-specific antibodies is called antiserum. The 5 types – IgG, IgM, IgA, IgD, IgE – (isotypes) are classified according to the type of heavy chain constant region, and are distributed and function differently in the body.

The Five Immunoglobulin (Ig) Classes					
	IgM pentamer	IgG monomer	Secretory IgA dimer	IgE monomer	IgD monomer
					
Heavy chains	$\mu$	$\gamma$	$\alpha$	$\epsilon$	$\delta$
Number of antigen binding sites	10	2	4	2	2
Molecular weight (Daltons)	900,000	150,000	385,000	200,000	180,000
Percentage of total antibody in serum	6%	80%	13%	0.002%	1%
Crosses placenta	no	yes	no	no	no
Fixes complement	yes	yes	no	no	no
Fc binds to		phagocytes		mast cells and basophils	
Function	Main antibody of primary responses, best at fixing complement; the monomer form of IgM serves as the B cell receptor	Main blood antibody of secondary responses, neutralizes toxins, opsonization	Secreted into mucus, tears, saliva, colostrum	Antibody of allergy and antiparasitic activity	B cell receptor

## Functions of Antibody

1. IgG provides long term protection because it persists for months and years after the presence of the antigen that has triggered their production.

2. IgG protect against bacteris, viruses, neutralise bacterial toxins, trigger compliment protein systems and bind antigens to enhance the effectiveness of phagocytosis.
3. Main function of IgA is to bind antigens on microbes before they invade tissues. It aggregates the antigens and keeps them in the secretions so when the secretion is expelled, so is the antigen.
4. IgA are also first defense for mucosal surfaces such as the intestines, nose, and lungs.
5. IgM is involved in the ABO blood group antigens on the surface of RBCs.
6. IgM enhance ingestions of cells by phagocytosis.
7. IgE bind to mast cells and basophils wich participate in the immune response.
8. Some scientists think that IgE's purpose is to stop parasites.
9. IgD is present on the surface of B cells and plays a role in the induction of antibody production.