



The most notable differences between the monomer IgM-BCR molecule drawn above, and discussed in the article, and the secreted pentameric structure, is the lack of ring formation, the location in which the antibody is found, and the J chain. In the monomer shown above the membrane spanning portion is recognized as the bottom of the heavy chain, a part of the constant region. IgM in its pentameric form has a ring in the center which is held together via the joining “J” chain. This structure lacks the ability to bind to the membrane, and as a result of this, the antibody is secreted into blood and lymph. The monomer shown above is embedded into the membrane of B-cells to participate in antigen recognition. The pentameric form of IgM would appear to be made up of five of the monomers shown above in a ring-like formation.