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en·keph·a·lin  (ĕn-kĕf ə-lĭn)

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n.

Either of two closely related pentapeptides having opiate qualities and occurring in the brain, spinal cord, and other parts of the body.

[Greek *enkephalos*, in the head (*en-*, in; see **en** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *kephalē*, head; see **ghebh-el-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)) + *-in*.]

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