New kit to make male ‘cut’ painless

**BY NATION**

**CORRESPONDENT**

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Painless male circumcision

could soon become a reality if

pilot studies on a new device

are successful.

The device, known as

PrePex, is used alongside an

anaesthetic cream to peel off

foreskin without bleeding.

It is poised to increase the

number of male adults going

for the cut as it is faster than

current methods.

Some 425 men, aged 18 to

49, have enrolled for the study

to be launched next week in

various health centres in

Nyanza. The research will

take four months.

**Safer than other methods**

Similar studies in Rwanda,

Uganda and Zimbabwe have

showed that circumcision by

PrePex is safer than other

methods.

Dr Peter Cherutich, the director

of HIV prevention at National

Aids and STI Control Programme,

said initial safety studies done in

the three countries showed that

less blood is shed when PrePex is

used compared to other methods

currently in use.

PrePex uses the elastic rubber

band to remove foreskin

from the penis.

‘‘The band compresses the

foreskin against a plastic ring

slipped inside it; the foreskin

dies within hours for lack of

blood and after a week falls off,”

said Dr Cherutich during the

launch of the device for study

trials at Lumumba Health Centre

in Kisumu. Research has

shown that male cut reduces

chances of HIV infection.