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NEWSLETTER · IN CONVERSATION WITH POORYA AMINI

The protocol is the problem

Poorya Amini — founder and CEO of Risklick — on why so much trial pain starts with the protocol, and using 800,000 past trials to design better ones, faster.

Poorya Amini took an unusual route into pharma — veterinary medicine, a PhD in pharmacology, and hands-on trial management at the University of Bern — before founding Risklick, a Swiss digital health company, in 2019. Its focus is a bottleneck most people downstream feel but few name: the protocol itself.



Fix the protocol, and you fix a hundred problems you'd otherwise meet later.

— Poorya Amini, on Pharma Prescribed

Where the pain begins

Poorya's argument is that inefficiency baked into a protocol propagates through the entire study — amendments, delays, sites struggling to implement what looked fine on paper. Traditional protocol development is slow and, too often, reinvents mistakes others already made. The design stage, in other words, is where a lot of later suffering is quietly authored.

Learning from 800,000 trials

Risklick's Protocol AI draws on a database of more than 800,000 clinical trials to inform design — the company claims meaningful cuts to development time, amendments and implementation. Whatever the exact figures, the principle is sound: the field has run enough trials to learn from, if only that knowledge were made usable at the moment of design.

Science plus software

His pharmacology and trial-management background keeps the tool honest. This isn't automation for its own sake; it's someone who has felt protocol pain first-hand trying to encode hard-won judgement into something the next team can lean on.



Listen to the full episode

Poorya Amini on Pharma Prescribed — at pharmaprescribed.com and wherever you get your podcasts.

Poorya Amini is the founder and CEO of Risklick, a Swiss digital health company focused on clinical trial protocol design.