

Case study

Executing Concurrent Decentralized RCTs and RWE at Scale



Industry: Medtech



Product: AI-powered MSK care with clinical oversight to prevent pain, support recovery, and promote whole-body health.



Mission: To free the world from pain by reinventing how people access and receive care



Study Scope: Decentralized RCTs and Real-World Evidence (RWE) generation for Digital MSK care.



Castor solution: EDC, ePRO, eConsent

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The challenge: defining their solution as a new standard of care

Sword Health set out to prove that digital care for musculoskeletal (MSK) conditions could match or outperform in-person treatment. They needed to execute rigorous, large-scale RCTs to validate this, but legacy methods created immediate bottlenecks.

The team faced three hurdles:

- **Protocol Complexity:** The study design required precise longitudinal tracking to balance treatment arms—nuances that pen-and-paper could not support and legacy EDCs were too rigid to handle.
- **Operational Burden:** With a lean clinical research team, the company could not afford the long build times or specialized programming skills required by traditional, heavyweight platforms.
- **Deployment Agility:** The team needed a solution that could be deployed "off the shelf" to meet aggressive timelines, while still offering deep customization for their specific therapeutic logic.



We wanted something that would work off the shelf with minimal work, but that would allow customization.

- Fernando Correia

Senior Vice President of Clinical Affairs | Sword Health

The solution: a unified, low-code platform for rapid deployment

Castor's usability, configurability, and robustness set it apart from systems that were costly and cumbersome.

Castor's integrated EDC, ePRO, and eConsent solutions, provided Sword Health with:

- **Rapid Configuration:** Teams executed study build and UAT via a low-code interface, eliminating vendor programming delays.
- **Hybrid Protocol Support:** Unified data capture for both rigorous, controlled RCTs and longitudinal, high-volume Real-World Evidence cohorts.
- **Enterprise Scalability:** Robust performance supporting over 200,000 participants and complex, multi-site decentralized workflows.
- **Site-Centric Experience:** Intuitive interface reduced site training burden and ensured high compliance across distributed clinical partners.

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If you have any questions, please contact our study team at [\[aspectproject@ucsf.edu\]](mailto:aspectproject@ucsf.edu)

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“What drew me to Castor was the ease of use, and the ability to customize it easily to our setting in our clinical trial. Ease of use, adaptability, and reliability are three things that are really crucial in all these platforms.”

- Fernando Correia

Senior Vice President of Clinical Affairs | Sword Health

The result: two pivotal RCTs and a 200,000-patient evidence engine

Sword Health utilized the Castor platform to execute two concurrent RCTs alongside massive real-world data capture. This hybrid strategy delivered:

- **Unprecedented Efficiency:** An internal clinical research team of just four FTEs managed the data execution required to publish 40 peer-reviewed studies, minimizing reliance on external CROs.
- **Massive Scale:** The team built a structured, longitudinal RWE dataset exceeding 200,000 participants.
- **Commercial Impact:** This rigorous, audit-ready evidence base validated the outcomes required to secure coverage for over 13 million lives.

[See the platform in action](#)

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