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6 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
7 **FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

8 MARK McFADZEAN,

9 Plaintiff,

10 v.

11 RICARDO WILLIS, MASOUD SHOJAEI,  
12 STANISLAW SIELICKI, and L. METTRY,

13 Defendant.

CASE NO. **1:05-CV-00056-DCB**  
(PC)

**ORDER**

14 Plaintiff, a federal prisoner, proceeds pro se. He seeks relief against Defendants  
15 pursuant to *Bivens v. Six Unknown Named Agents of Federal Bureau of Narcotics*, 403 U.S.  
16 388 (1971), for alleged violations of his constitutional rights. On January 13, 2005, Plaintiff  
17 filed a Complaint, which was screened, twice, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915A, and dismissed  
18 for failure to state a claim, with leave to amend. The case proceeded upon the filing of the  
19 Second Amended Complaint on August 14, 2006.

20 Plaintiff alleged that Defendants Schultz, Gant, Booth, and Moorhead deprived him  
21 of his protected liberty interest in remaining free from segregation in violation of the Fourth  
22 Amendment and the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment. He alleged that  
23 Defendants Willis, Shojaei, Sielicki and Mettry violated the Eighth Amendment by acting  
24 with deliberate indifference to his medical needs.

25 On October 16, 2007, the Court granted Defendants' Motion to Dismiss all  
26 defendants named in their official capacity. Plaintiff failed to file a Response and dismissal  
27 was entered pursuant to Local Rule 78-230(m), which provides that the failure to oppose a  
28 motion "may be deemed a waiver of any opposition to the granting of the motion. . . ."

1 On January 1, 2008, Defendants filed a Motion to Dismiss the Plaintiff's Fourth and  
2 Fifth Amendment claims because he failed to administratively exhaust them. The Plaintiff  
3 filed a Response on February 25, 2008. A magistrate judge issued a Report and  
4 Recommendation that the Motion to Dismiss be granted. The Plaintiff filed an Objection,  
5 over which the Court adopted the Report and Recommendation and granted Defendants'  
6 Motion to Dismiss Plaintiff's Fourth and Fifth Amendment claims.

7 Only Count III remains, which is Plaintiff's allegation that Defendants Willis,  
8 Mettry, Shojaei, and Sielicki violated the Eighth Amendment to the United States  
9 Constitution by acting with deliberate indifference to his serious medical needs. He alleges  
10 that a needed surgical procedure to repair a hernia was delayed for six months. After finally  
11 receiving surgery at a local community hospital, he was returned to prison in less than three  
12 hours. He was housed in "S.H.U.," (Special Housing Unit), where post surgical care was  
13 inadequate or nonexistent. Specifically, he alleges that post surgery he had bleeding and  
14 leakage of body fluids from the incision and the medical care in S.H.U. was on a schedule  
15 for bandage and bedding changes and laundry that was inadequate to ensure cleanliness.  
16 He alleges he was not provided with adequate antibiotic or pain medication. (Second  
17 Amended Complaint at 3.)

18 On September 23, 2008, the Defendants filed a Motion for Summary Judgment.  
19 Defendants submit that Plaintiff has admitted his bedding was changed upon his request and,  
20 therefore, his claim of soiled bedding does not rise to the level of a constitutional violation.  
21 Overall, his allegations of inadequate medical care do not rise to the level of an Eighth  
22 Amendment claim of deliberate indifference. Defendants argue that Plaintiff's claims are  
23 barred by the doctrine of qualified immunity. To the extent that the Plaintiff seeks mental  
24 or emotional injury, his claims fail because he has not shown a physical injury as required  
25 under 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(e). To the extent the Plaintiff seeks to hold Defendants liable based  
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1 on the doctrine of *respondeat superior*, such claims fail as a matter of law under *Bivens*.  
2 Plaintiff has failed to file a Response to Defendants’ Motion for Summary Judgment.

3 Plaintiff has been given notice of LR 78-230(m), which makes the failure to oppose  
4 a motion “a waiver of any opposition to the granting of the motion. . . .” (Second  
5 Informational Order at 2.)<sup>1</sup> Plaintiff was subject to the operation of Rule 78-230(m) when  
6 the Court dismissed all claims brought against Defendants in their official capacity. Plaintiff  
7 has exhibited his understanding of the Rule and his ability to file responsive pleadings as he  
8 did respond to the Report and Recommendation. Additionally, the Defendants reminded the  
9 Plaintiff of LR 78-230(m) with the filing of the Motion for Summary Judgment. (Notice of  
10 Motion for Summary Judgment.) Plaintiff was given notice regarding the requirements for  
11 opposing a motion for summary judgment made pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 56. (Second  
12 Information Order at 3 (citing *Klinge v. Eikenberry*, 849 F.2d 409 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1988); *Rand v.*  
13 *Rowland*, 154 F.3d 952 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1998)). Accordingly, the Court reviews the Defendants’  
14 arguments for summary judgment, pursuant to LR 78-230(m).

15 “A motion for summary judgment cannot be granted simply because the opposing  
16 party violated a local rule.” *Marshall v. Gates*, 44 F.3d 722, 725 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1995) (citing  
17 *Henry v. Gill Industries Inc.*, 983 F.2d 943, 950 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1993). This is so because a party  
18 may oppose a motion for summary judgment without offering affidavits or any other  
19 materials in support of its opposition. “Summary judgment may be resisted and must be  
20 denied on no other grounds than that the movant has failed to meet its burden of  
21 demonstrating the absence of triable issues.” *Id.* at 106 (quoting *Henry*, 983 F.2d at 950).

22 The Court finds that the Defendants have carried their evidentiary burden and  
23 summary judgment is warranted in this case. The allegations in the Second Amended  
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26 <sup>1</sup>See also (Second Informational Order at ¶ 7 (dismissal as a sanction for failure to  
27 comply with this Order)); *United States v. Warren*, 601 F.2d 471, 474 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1979  
(dismissal is proper where party fails to follow a district court's local rules).

1 Complaint are insufficient to overcome the arguments and evidence provided by the  
2 Defendants that the Plaintiff was NOT treated with deliberate indifference regarding his  
3 medical needs.

4 The medical records reflect that he reported problems with his hernia on September  
5 26, 2003, (MSJ, SOF at ¶ 5), and was given a referral for a medical consult and a  
6 prescription for Motrin, *id.* at ¶ 6. On December 19, Plaintiff inquired about surgery, and  
7 on January 5, 2004, he was referred to Dr. Lawrence Mueller, M.D., an outside specialist.  
8 *Id.* at ¶¶ 7-8. Plaintiff was seen by Dr. Mueller on January 16, 2004, and underwent surgery  
9 on March 9, 2004. *Id.* at ¶¶ 9-10. After the surgery, he was “totally medicated and had no  
10 pain.” (MSJ at 3 (citing Pl’s Depo. at 85)). He was ambulating and able to return to his cell  
11 to sleep. (MSJ, SOF at ¶¶ 12-13, 17.)

12 At his deposition, the Plaintiff testified that he woke around 7:00 p.m. on the 9<sup>th</sup> and  
13 was in pain. He alleged that when he asked for pain medication, he was told that he would  
14 have to wait until the next day for pain medication because the physician’s assistant had  
15 already made the rounds. He also alleged that Defendant Mettry did not check his surgical  
16 dressing on the 9<sup>th</sup>. (MSJ at 5 (citing Pl’s Depo. at 92)).

17 The medical records reflect, however, that she did check the dressing, found it to be  
18 clean and dry, and advised him to not remove it until he was evaluated by the physician’s  
19 assistant. She advised him to avoid heavy lifting and vigorous activity. (MSJ, SOF at ¶¶ 13-  
20 17; Ex. H.)

21 At his deposition the Plaintiff alleged that on the 10<sup>th</sup>, the physician’s assistant,  
22 Defendant Shojaei, was unaware he had surgery on the 9<sup>th</sup>, looked at his dressing from  
23 outside the cell, and provided him with “some pills” by throwing them into the cell on the  
24 floor and walking away. Plaintiff alleges he did not take the medication because he was in  
25 too much pain to retrieve them. (MSJ at 5 (citing Pl’s Depo. at 92-96, 102-103)).

1 It is undisputed that on March, 11, 2004, Defendant Shojaei changed Plaintiff's  
2 dressing, instructed him to keep the area dry and clean, and provided Tylenol #3 for pain.  
3 (MSJ, SOF at ¶ 18.) On March 18, 2004, at his follow-up evaluation, Plaintiff's only  
4 complaint was of constipation. He was prescribed fiber tablets. *Id.* at ¶ 20. On April 5,  
5 Plaintiff requested and was seen by medical staff in regards to his surgery, and the area was  
6 well healed with no inflammation or infection. *Id.* at ¶ 21.

7 Based on the undisputed medical records related to Plaintiff's hernia surgery, the  
8 Defendants have demonstrated the absence of a triable issue. The medical record supports  
9 only one conclusion: Defendants did not act with deliberate indifference to Plaintiff's  
10 medical needs. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c) (summary judgment is appropriate if there is no  
11 genuine issue as to any material fact and moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of  
12 law). As this Court informed the Plaintiff when it screened his original Complaint,  
13 allegations of negligence, indifference, and even gross negligence will not support a  
14 constitutional medical-care claim under the Eighth Amendment. (Order, filed June 20, 2005,  
15 at 6-7 (citing *Estelle v. Gamble*, 429 U.S. 97, 106 (1994); *Farmer v. Brennan*, 511 U.S. 825,  
16 834, 837 (1994); *Broughton v. Cutter Laboratories*, 622 F.2d 458, 460 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1980); *Wood*  
17 *v. Housewright*, 900 F.2d 1332, 1334 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1990)).

18 Plaintiff believes that he should have been sent to the prison's medical unit, instead  
19 of back to his bed, or that he should have received pain medication, immediately, upon  
20 waking the evening of his surgery. He believes that the dressing should have been changed  
21 sooner or he should have received gauze or cleanser for the incision. A mere difference of  
22 opinion between prison officials and the prisoner concerning the appropriate course of  
23 treatment fails, however, to establish deliberate indifference. *Jackson v. McIntosh*, 90 F.3<sup>rd</sup>  
24 330, 332 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1996).

25 Plaintiff concedes that he healed "real fast" without any complications. (MSJ at 6  
26 (citing Pl's Depo. at 120-121)). His allegation that his bedding was not changed by  
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1 Defendants is eviscerated by his admission that other prison staff changed his bedding upon  
2 his request. (MSJ at 10 (citing Pl's Depo. at 162-164)).

3 The Defendant also establishes that as a matter of law, the Plaintiff's most  
4 "egregious" claims, which were made during his deposition, are subject to dismissal for  
5 failing to raise and exhaust them administratively. (MSJ at 7-10.) There is no evidence that  
6 he ever filed administrative grievances regarding his allegations that Defendant Mettry lied  
7 about checking his bandage on the 9<sup>th</sup> and finding it clean and dry, or that Defendant Shojaei  
8 did not know about his surgery on the 10<sup>th</sup> and provided pain medication that day by  
9 throwing it on the floor of the cell.

10 Plaintiff cannot state any claim for mental or emotional injury because he fails to  
11 show even *de minimis* physical injury. (MSJ at 11-12 (citing *Oliver v. Keller*, 289 F.3d 623,  
12 628-29 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2002) (§ 1997e(e) requires more than *de minimis* physical injury to pursue  
13 claims for mental and emotional injury)).

14 Lastly, Defendants are entitled to qualified immunity because their conduct did not  
15 violate clearly established statutory or constitutional rights of which a reasonable person  
16 would have known. *Harlow v. Fitzgerald*, 457 U.S. 800, 818 (1982). Qualified immunity  
17 protects "all but the plainly incompetent or those who knowingly violate the law." *Malley*  
18 *v. Briggs*, 457 U.S. 335, 341 (1986). Qualified immunity is not merely a defense from  
19 liability. It is an immunity from prosecution. In other words, it is an entitlement not to stand  
20 trial. Here, the Court need not reach the question of qualified immunity because it finds that  
21 there has been no constitutional violation. *Saucier v. Katz*, 533 U.S. 194, 201-202 (2001).

22 For all the reasons stated by Defendants, they are entitled to summary judgment.

23 **Accordingly,**

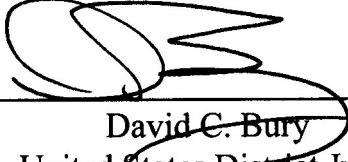
24 **IT IS ORDERED** that the Motion for Summary Judgment (document 85) is  
25 GRANTED, pursuant to LR 78-230(m).

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3 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Clerk of the Court shall enter Judgement  
4 accordingly.

5 DATED this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2009.  
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10 David C. Bury  
11 United States District Judge  
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