MANAGING A COMPROMISED TOOTH

Clinical Situation	Possible Approach
Early or manageable disease	Prevention, fluoride, monitoring
Active caries when definitive restoration is difficult or deferred	SDF or other nonrestorative disease-control approach
Localized defect + tooth is restorable	Conservative restoration / minimally invasive treatment
Pulpal disease + tooth is restorable	Root canal therapy
Maintainable periodontal disease	Periodontal therapy
Poor prognosis / non-restorable tooth	Extraction

Before choosing extraction, also consider:

- Conditions or medications that may affect healing or procedural risk
- Bone quality and anticipated difficulty of extraction or recovery
- Caregiver or home support during recovery and follow-up



Choose the least invasive approach that safely controls disease, preserves function, and fits the patient's goals and care needs.